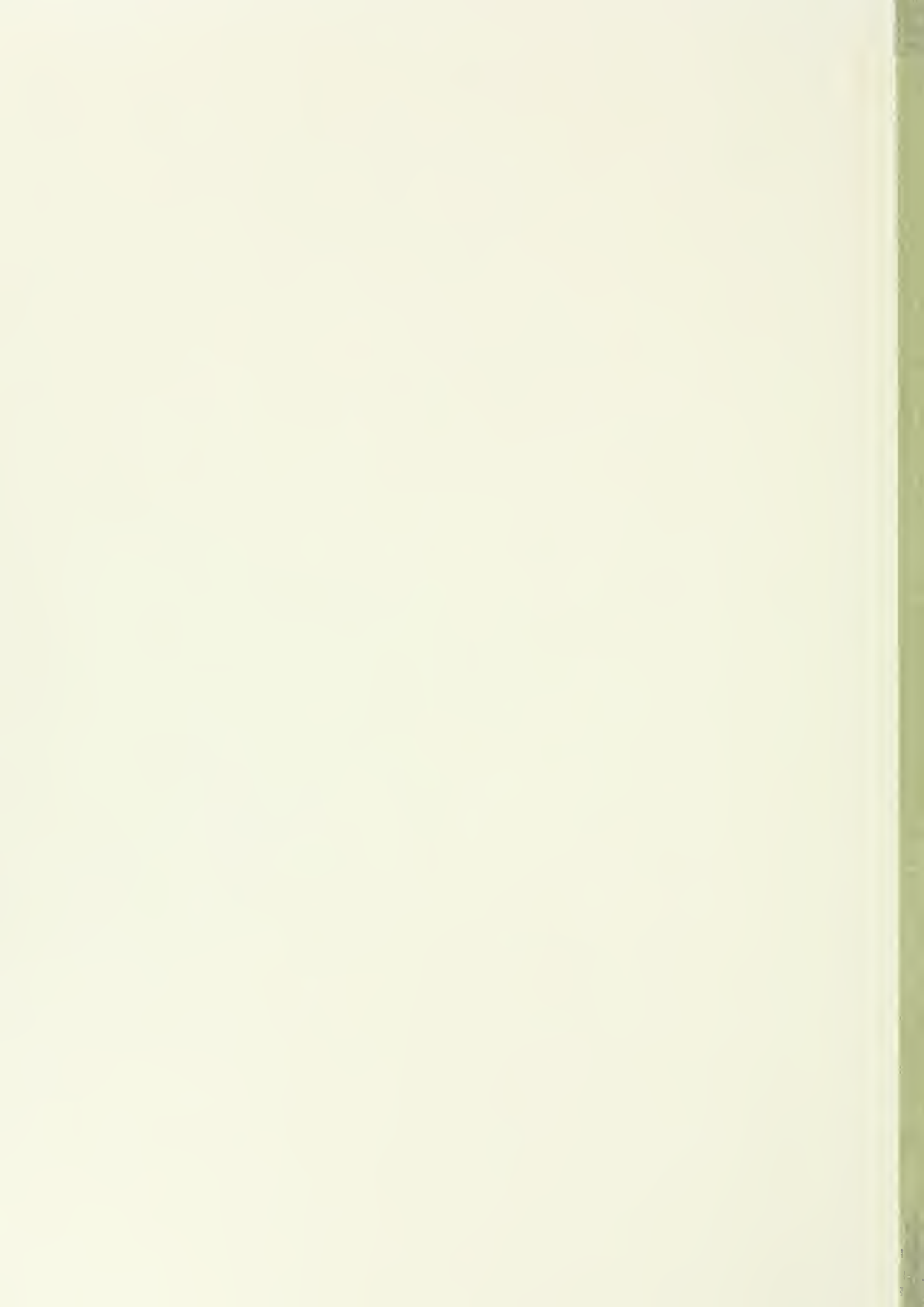


Hoopeston Centennial.  
[1871-1971]





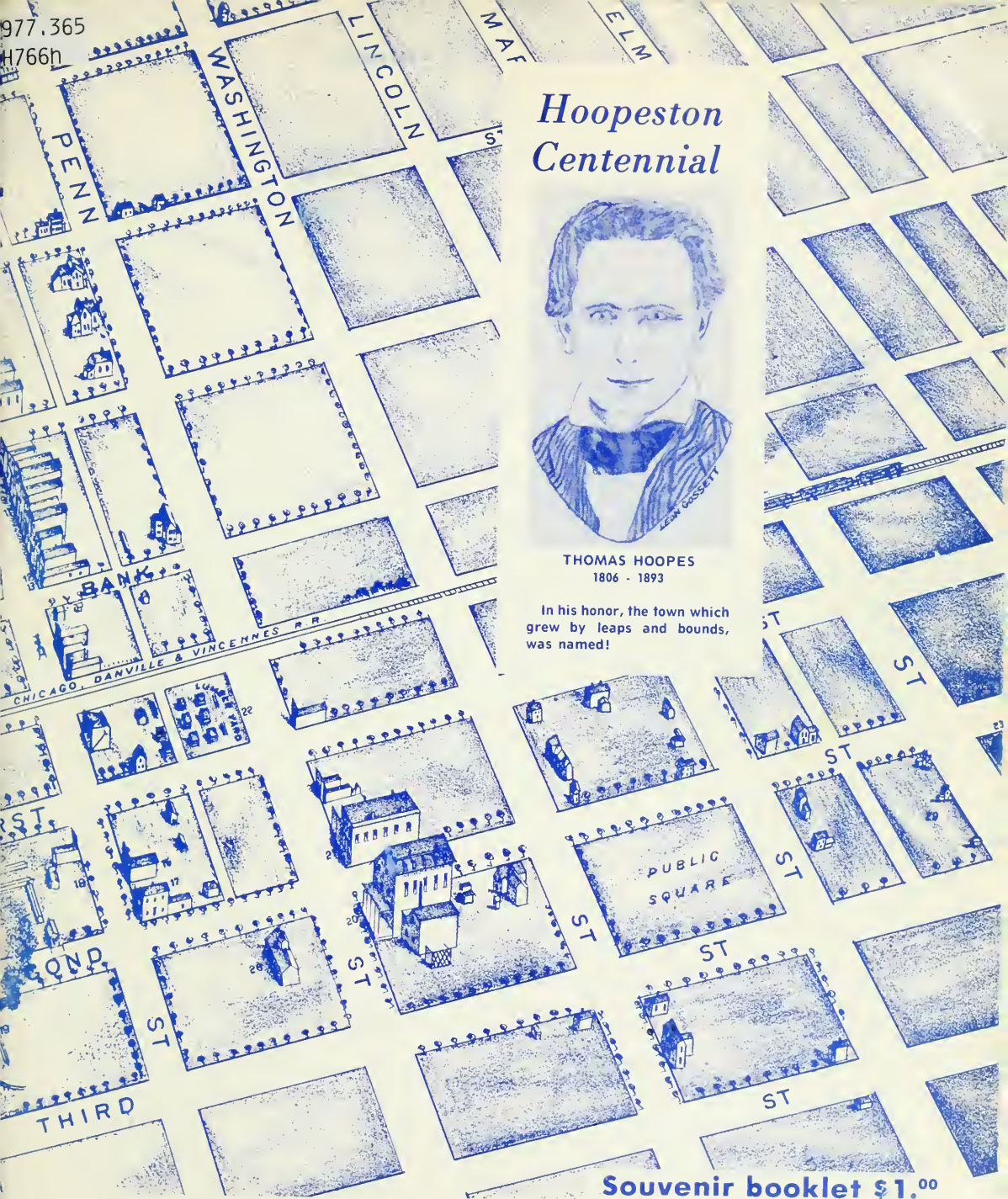






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## Hoopeston Centennial



THOMAS HOOPES  
1806 - 1893

In his honor, the town which  
grew by leaps and bounds,  
was named!

### RE OF HOOPESTON.

- 13. Lukens Bros.
- 14. Late J. C. Davis's Hotel.
- 15. Late Union Depot.
- 16. P. G. Johnson.
- 17. G. H. White, Land Agent.
- 18. J. L. Mozier.

- 19. Morey & Bros., Elevator.
- 20. Hibberd Hotel, J. C. Davis, Proprietor.
- 21. Goldstein, Brick Store.
- 22. M. D. Calkins, Lumber Yard.
- 23. Seam Noggie.
- 24. B. R. Wescott.

- 25. Powell's Drug Store.
- 26. Hay Press, G. C. Davis.
- 27. Stock Yard.
- 28. Livery Stable.
- 29. C. L. Calkus.

Souvenir booklet \$1.<sup>00</sup>



Souvenir Centennial Booklet:

*Dedicated to an Awareness of our Heritage,*

*and a Sincere Interest in our Future!*

Without the complete cooperation of supporting Hoopston businessmen, industries and organizations, our task of compiling the following booklet would not have been possible. Area friends and out-of-state businesses also played a part in financing the publication.

References for information have been numerous. History of Vermilion County by Lottie Jones and Hiram Beckwith, "History Under our Feet", other volumes at Hoopston Public Library and individual research by members of the committee have been our chief sources.

History books do not always have "complete" facts and information and can give the reader, in many cases, only his own ideas of how life was when our town was founded. In some cases, facts may differ from others. Our interpretation of the countless thousands of articles are not, by any means, as complete as they might have been if more solid information had been available. Despite that, we've enjoyed the task of editing and compiling it and feel confident the booklets will be read thoroughly and kept for years as mementoes of our 100th anniversary.

SOUVENIR BOOKLET  
COMMITTEE

LEON GOSSETT,  
Chairman and Editor

Dale Brown	Carl Weber
Byron Yanders	Roy Powley
Tom Scott	Dianne Goin
Sharol Gossett	Joanna Rush
Ruth Seemann	Dave Foster
Harold Butzow	Sara Ault
Larry Cleveland	Jack Fisher





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# Calendar of Events

Sunday July 18th Religious Heritage Day

7:00 A.M. Noon--Church Services--All Churches  
 10:00 A.M. 4:00 P.M.--Hospitality Center Opens  
 Noon McFerren Park "Reunion"  
 \*(J. G. Williams Family)  
 \*(Leaver Family)  
 2:00 P.M. Midway Opens  
 8:00 P.M. Glen Brasel Field - High School  
 "Gospel Singing with the LeFevres  
 and Speer Family"  
 \$2.00 advance, \$2.50 at gate

Monday July 19th Senior Citizen's Day

10:00 A.M. Midway Opens (Merchant discount  
 rides until 5:00 P.M. all ages)  
 10:00 A.M. Hospitality Center Opens  
 (219 West Main Street)  
 2:00 P.M. American Legion "Bingo  
 (Senior Citizens)"  
 Free for all persons over 50 yrs. of age  
 \$2.00 for persons under 50 yrs. of age  
 8:00 P.M. Civic Center "Dance" (Senior Citizens)  
 Music by Pat Musk and Group  
 Free for all persons over 50 years of age  
 \$2.50 for all persons under 50 yrs. of age

Tuesday July 20th Open Air Market Day

9:00 A.M. Downtown Area - Open Air Market Opens  
 10:00 A.M. Midway Opens (Discount rides until  
 5:00 P.M.)  
 10:00 A.M. Hospitality Center Opens  
 11:30 A.M. 1:00 P.M.--Free corn on the cob  
 (Main Street - downtown)  
 3:00 P.M. 3:45 P.M.--"Entertainment"  
 (Main Street - downtown)  
 7:00 P.M. 8:00 P.M.--"Entertainment" (Downtown)  
 By the Ripchords IV  
 7:30 P.M. "Preliminary Beard Judging Contest"  
 (Downtown) Main Street  
 8:00 P.M. Glen Brasel Field - High School  
 "Pre-Spectacular Entertainment" by  
 "Hoopeston Sweet Corners"  
 9:00 P.M. "SPECTACULAR"  
 Glen Brasel Field  
 Fireworks immediately following Spectacular

Wednesday July 21st Youth Day

10:00 A.M. Youth Parade (Downtown)  
 (Pet, Bike and Costume Categories)  
 10:00 A.M. Hospitality Center Opens  
 10:00 A.M. Midway Opens (Discount rides until  
 5:00 P.M.)  
 1:00 P.M. "Movie & Cartoons" (Lorraine Theatre)  
 Admission--for all persons 15 and under,  
 2 wooden nickles  
 For all persons over 15 years of age, \$1.00  
 2:00 P.M. 5:00 P.M.--McFerren Park  
 "Games & Contests" (8 through 15 age)  
 3:30 P.M. 5:00 P.M.--McFerren Park  
 "Games & Contests" (3 through 7 age)  
 8:00 P.M. Civic Center "Teen Hop"  
 Music by: AMBOY DUKES

Admission: \$2.50 Advance, \$3.50 Door

8:00 P.M. Glen Brasel Field - High School  
 "Pre-Spectacular Entertainment"  
 by the Antioch Teen Choir

9:00 P.M. "SPECTACULAR"  
 Glen Brasel Field  
 Thursday July 22nd Industry Day

10:00 A.M. Hospitality Center Opens  
 10:00 A.M. Midway Opens (Discount rides  
 until 5:00 P.M.)  
 2:00 P.M. 4:00 P.M.--Open House Plant Tours  
 (Tour information at Centennial Headquarters)  
 FMC Corporation  
 Joan of Arc  
 American Can  
 Stokely-Van Camp

7:30 P.M. Glen Brasel Field  
 "Pre-Spectacular Entertainment"  
 "Finals Beard Judging Contest"

9:00 P.M. "SPECTACULAR"  
 Glen Brasel Field  
 Friday July 23rd Agriculture Day

10:00 A.M. Hospitality Center Opens  
 10:00 A.M. Midway Opens (Discount rides  
 until 5:00 P.M.)  
 10:00 A.M. 5:00 P.M.--Civic Center  
 11:00 A.M. (11:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M.-Luncheon)  
 by Helen Farrell (Civic Center)  
 Displays--Art Show--Style Show--  
 Band Concert & other entertainment  
 Program starts  
 2:00 P.M. Pioneer Events recognition presentations  
 Agriculture Day recognition presentations  
 (100 year farm plaques)

\*6:30 P.M. "V.F.W. "Reunion" (Class of '46)  
 7:30 P.M. Glen Brasel Field

"Pre-Spectacular Entertainment"  
 "Competitive Style Show"  
 9:00 P.M. "SPECTACULAR"  
 Glen Brasel Field  
 Saturday July 24th Variety Day

9:00 A.M. 5:00 P.M.--Bank Street "Flea Market"  
 10:00 A.M. Hospitality Center Opens  
 10:00 A.M. Midway Opens  
 11:00 A.M. Auction of Centennial Silver Coins  
 No's. 1 thru 10 and No. 100  
 Corner of Bank & Main Streets  
 7:00 P.M.--Hoopeston Community  
 \*Hospital Auxiliary Chicken Bar-B-Que  
 All Day (Downtown)  
 11:30 A.M. Centennial Manor  
 "Dedication Ceremonies"  
 Governor Ogilvie, Senator Tom Merritt  
 2:00 P.M.--Lunch  
 2:00 P.M. "Parade"  
 Grand Marshall--Governor Ogilvie  
 \*American Legion "Reunion"  
 (Class of '51)  
 7:00 P.M. Glen Brasel Field - High School  
 Pre-Spectacular Activities  
 8:00 P.M. 11:00 P.M.--Civic Center "Square Dance"  
 Refreshments & door prize \$3.00 per couple  
 9:00 P.M. "SPECTACULAR"  
 Glen Brasel Field



# In The Beginning:

## The Naming of Grant Township

(from: "History of Vermilion County by H. W. Beckwith. H. H. Hills & Co., Chicago, 1879)

Grant Township was, until 1862, a portion of Ross, and as now constituted, occupies the northeastern corner of the county, having Indiana for its eastern boundary, Iroquois county for its northern, Butler township for its western, and Ross for its southern. It is rectangular in shape; is twelve and one-half miles long by seven and one-half wide, containing 58,880 acres and is the largest township in the county. In 1862 it was almost entirely prairie, having but a few acres of timber near the center of its southern line, known as Bicknell's Point, (2 miles north of where Rossville is today) and formed the great treeless "divide" between the head waters of the Vermilion and of the Iroquois. As late as 1860, very little of its land had been brought into cultivation, although the great highway of travel from the south to Chicago (Hubbard Trail) ran directly across its center twenty-five years before that time. When, in 1872, the railroad was built through it, few farms were intersected. The great prairie from Bicknell's Point stretching north was the dread of the early settler when he became benighted on his return from Chicago after a ten days' trip to that, their only market. The dark, stormy, wintry nights carried terror to many a household when it was feared that the father or husband or son was trying to find his way home over the treeless waste of the great divide.



The Bicknell House built on North Fork, 1835; rebuilt as Bicknell Inn in 1845. Located about 2 miles north of Rossville (called Liggett's Grove and Henpeck). George and William Bicknell set up a homestead and as traffic increased on Hubbard's Trail, they erected the inn in 1845. Abraham Lincoln was said to be a patron years later.



GEN. U. S. GRANT

### A PRAIRIE TRAGEDY

A single incident of such tragic nature as to be told over and over again at every fireside in the 1830's will serve to show the terrors which in those days were consequent upon winter travel. In December, 1836, on a mild warm day in which rain and snow mingled until the ground was covered with slush, and everything which travelers wore was wet through, the thermometer ranging above forty degrees, two travelers, Frame and Hildreth, were making their way back toward the settlements on the Vermilion, and, just after night overtook them when not far from where Hoopston now stands, the "sudden change" so often alluded to by old settlers struck them. The weather, from ranging above freezing, suddenly dropped to twenty degrees below zero, accompanied by a wind which was severe enough to

freeze every article of wet clothing in an instant. The ground full of water, became frozen in a very few minutes, and no man could stand it for even a short time on horseback. The men walked for a while, until they became numb and lost. To be lost on this great prairie at anytime, and under any circumstances of weather, was a most painful condition, mentally, one could be placed in; but lost in a storm, conscious that one was gradually and surely becoming less and less able every moment to care for himself, was as near like enduring the torments of the damned as one can well imagine. On, on they went, vainly hoping to reach some place where they might at least be protected from the fearful blasts. They had given up hope of getting what King James asked in somewhat similar circumstances — "rest and a guide, and food and fire"; but they still hoped to find the friendly shelter of Bicknell's Point. But finally that hope also abandoned them, and, with almost the certainty of death, they decided to kill their horses and disembowel them, hoping that the friendly shelter of the stiffening carcass and warmth of the animal heat might save them from certain death. Unreasonable as their hope seems, they actually carried their plan into partial execution, by killing one of the horses, and pushing him over as he fell so that the back would lie toward the west, and protect them in a measure from the terrible blast. The other horse for some reason was not killed, and the two half-frozen men made themselves as comfortable as possible in the shelter which they had thus prepared. In the morning, Frame was dead, and Mr. Hildreth was so badly frozen that he suffered partial amputation. He died in Carroll township in 1876, living to see almost forty anniversaries of that dreadful night.

### GIVEN NAME "LYON"

When the old township of Ross was divided the name of Lyon was given to this. When the name was sent to Springfield, the auditor notified the supervisors that there was already a township named Lyons in Cook county, and it would be necessary to find another name. A western captain who had been for some years carrying on a limited tanning business at Galena, smoking his pipe very regularly, and talking very little about politics or anything else, had, a year before this, offered his services to the governor of the state in any position that he should deem him worthy to fill, in aid of organizing regiments



for sending for to put down armed treason in the south. He was sent to the adjutant-general's office with a request to put him to work. In less than 24 hours the adjutant-general found out that this quiet, almost speechless man knew more than the whole office. A regiment was then quartered at Camp Butler almost in a state of mutiny, and Governor Yates found that it would be necessary to displace the colonel and give the command to some one who could manage it. He appealed to Capt. Grant, who at once replied that he thought he would have no trouble with as good a regiment as that. He took command, marched the men across the country to Quincy, and went to the front. He had, at the time a new name was to be selected for this township, just electrified the country by his reply to the rebel commandant at Fort Donelson, that no terms but "unconditional surrender" would be accepted. It was the first great victory of the war, and it was believed that a great future awaited the new general, Ulysses Grant. About the first great honor paid him was the naming of this magnificent township after him.

The first town meeting held in Grant township after it was cut off from Ross, was held in the Owen school-house, April, 1862. The following are the officers who were elected at that time: J. R. STEWART, SUPERVISOR; A. M. DAVIS, CLERK; A. M. DAVIS, ASSESSOR; W. W. SMITH, COLLECTOR.

Justices of the peace have been: James Holmes, E. B. Jenkins, W. D. Fouike, A. M. Davis, William Moore, and L. Armstrong.

## Weather in the 1800's. . .

Vermilion County is not subject to extremes of weather as is found in some sections. There are some instances on record, however, of extremes which bear notice. One of these is the deep snow of the winter of 1830-1, which gave this season the reputation of being one of great severity, and occasioned much suffering. This snow, however, did not fall all at once but was the accumulation of many fallings on top of the preceding one. These were repeated over and over again without any melting of snow until the ground was so completely hidden that there was great suffering in consequence. The cattle could not receive the care needed and hundreds died in consequence. This was the winter in which the elder Partlow died and his sons became so discouraged that they went back to Kentucky. The deer were driven away to seek food or were starved in such great numbers that they were never so plentiful again in this region. Another extreme of weather is recorded in the "cold Tuesday" of December 16, 1836. Enoch Kingsbury wrote a letter, sometime in the fifties, telling his remembrance of that day which has been preserved and is hereby given entire.

"The weather on Monday, December 16, 1836, was quite warm and fast softening the heavy snow. On Tuesday it began to rain before day and continued until four in the afternoon, at which time the ground was covered with water and melting snow. All the small streams were very full and the large ones rapidly rising.

"At this crisis there arose a large and tumultuous cloud in the west, with a rumbling noise. On its approach everything congealed. In less than five minutes it changed a warm atmosphere to one of intense cold, and flowing water to ice. One says that he started his horse into a gallop in the mud and water and on going a quarter of a mile, he was bounding over ice and frozen ground. Another says that in an hour after the change he passed over a stream of two feet deep on ice, which actually froze solid to the bottom and remained so until Spring. The North Fork where it was rapid and so full of water as to overflow its bottoms, froze over so solid that night that horses crossed the next morning, and it was thus with all the streams.

"Mr. Alvan Gilbert, with his men, was crossing the prairie from Bicknells (about where Rossville is located now) to Sugar Creek, with a large drove of hogs. Before the cloud came over them the hogs and horses showed the greatest alarm and an apprehension of danger. As it actually came upon them, the hogs refusing to go any further, began to pile themselves in one vast heap as their best defense on the open prairie. During the

night half a dozen of them perished, and those on the outside were so frozen they had to be cut loose. About twelve others died on their way to Chicago in consequence of their being badly frozen, while many others lost large pieces of their flesh.

"Mr. Gilbert and his men rode five or six miles distant, all of them having fingers, toes or ears frozen, and the harness so frozen that it could not be unhitched from the wagon, and scarcely from the horses.

"Two men riding across the same prairie a little further to the west, came to a stream so wide and deep they could not cross it. The dreary night came on and after exercising in vain, they killed one horse, rolled his back to the wind and took out his entrails, and thrust in their hands and feet, while they lay upon them."

## Village Presidents-Mayors

The village of Hoopeston was organized in January, 1874 with the following presidents serving from that time:

1874, T. J. Carr; 1874-75, N. L. Thompson; 1875-76, S. P. Thompson; 1876-77, Samuel Noggle.

In April, 1877, the City of Hoopeston was organized. Mayors and the year of their election have been:

1877 thru 1879, J. S. McFerren; 1879, Alba Honeywell; 1881-1884, J. S. McFerren; S. P. Thompson; 1885-88, H. L. Bushnell; 1888, A. H. Trego; 1889-1891, W. P. Pierce; 1891-1893, W. R. Wilson; 1893-1895, J. H. Dyer; 1895-97, J. S. McFerren; 1897-1901, John L. Hamilton; 1901, J. S. McFerren; 1902-1905, James A. Cunningham; 1905-1907, Fred Ayers; 1907-1909, C. S. Crary; 1909-1913, H. C. Finley; 1913-1917, I. E. Merritt; 1917-1919, William Moore; 1919-1925, John A. Heaton; 1925-1929, D. J. McFerren; 1929-1931, Fred E. Earele; 1931-1933, E. H. Richcreek; 1933-1935, Walter Trego; 1935-1937, Franklin Johnson; 1937-1941, William Beggs; 1941-1947, Gilbert C. Trego; 1947-1949, Frank Newman; 1949-1953, Dr. G. R. Browne; 1953-1957, D. J. McFerren; 1957-1961, John A. Crumley; 1961-1965, Joseph C. Moore II; 1965-1969, Martin Young; 1969 to present, Earl F. Smock.

## History of Banking in Hoopeston

Banking first came to Hoopeston in August 1, 1872 and was established by J. S. McFerren and Wright Chamberlan using the name of McFerren and Chamberlan. Mr. McFerren was a pioneer resident and the first mayor of Hoopeston. Mr. Chamberlan retired from the bank due to ill health in 1874, at which time McFerren's brother, James, came into the business and the bank was known as J. S. McFerren and Brother. James McFerren passed away and J. S. McFerren organized the First National Bank of Hoopeston in 1882. The bank was organized with a capitalization of \$25,000.00. J. S. McFerren continued as President until his death in 1921, at this time his son William McFerren took over the position of President.

In 1889 Burwell, Hamilton and Morgan founded a banking house, which was later taken over by Hamilton and Lateer. J. A. Cunningham and J. L. Hamilton later went together and organized the Hamilton & Cunningham Bank in 1894. I. E. Merritt and Mark R. Koplin came to Hoopeston from Buckley, Illinois and in June of 1909 established the Hoopeston National Bank.

From 1909 until 1931 Hoopeston enjoyed two banks, The First National Bank and The Hoopeston National Bank. In 1931 these two banks merged and was then known as the First National Bank of Hoopeston.

During the moratorium in 1933 the First National Bank closed its doors, but all depositors were paid in full. Later that same year the City National Bank of Hoopeston was organized and their doors were opened August 7, 1933. City National had a capital of \$50,000.00 and surplus of \$10,000.00. The first President was E. H. Trego and the Board of Directors consisted of C. V. McClenathan, E. H. Gustine, E. J. Boorde, George Petry, G. H. Couchman, E. F. Trego, H. C. Crays, and Mac Wallace. E. F.



# The "Embryo City of the Plains"

In Hoopeston's Beginning, 3 separate areas of the new-born town were bent on gaining the bulk of the town's business . . . thus, the nickname "Embryo City" was given it (Embryo meaning: "Any living thing in the earliest stages of its development"). It was also called the 3-headed city.



Let us suppose ourselves standing at the cross roads of the two railroads about noon on the 24th of July, 1871 just as the track was being laid on the Chicago, Danville and Vincennes road, across the grade of the Lafayette, Bloomington and Mississippi railroad. As we look over a mile distant to the nearest house, at which perchance there might be a hope of obtaining a good square meal, or behold on the opposite side the large plain of land, covered with the luxuriant growth of prairie grasses and a forest of rosin weeds, but a few months before deer had been seen grazing on the prairie, although aware of the importance of the location and of the wealth of the country, would our prophetic eye have dilated to such an extent as to predict that 5 months would not pass ere there would be scattered around this crossing over 70 buildings, occupied by more than 245 persons, and that throngs of loaded wagons would be coming here to unload their freight of corn, and obtain the necessities of domestic life in return?

We had supposed that the work of vigorous city making was confined to the frontier, but now we are convinced that Illinois still has places where the opening of a new railroad causes towns to spring into existence, "full armed" like Venus from the head of Jupiter.

## LOCATION OF TOWN

On the 28th day of July, 1871, the first chain was stretched which was destined to mark off the present sight of what is known as Hoopeston proper, comprising about 18 acres situated in the southeast corner of the crossing upon land owned by Messrs. Davis and Satterthwaite, bought from Hiram Hatch in 1870, at \$22.50 per acre. On the 28th day of August the surveyors' chain was again employed to designate the location of north Hoopeston, upon the land owned by Thompson Bros.; also Davis and Satterthwaite's addition, occupying the northeast corner of the crossing. The switch of the north and south road is 1,700 feet long and is located upon Thompson Bros. tract.

## LEEDS

Thus far the west side remained neglected, occupied by the land of Messrs. Snell, Taylor and Co., and Mr. Mix. But on the 6th day of November the county surveyor was employed to approve the previous survey made by the surveyor of Kankakee Co., the last of September. Stones were placed in the center of each street at the end, to prevent any controversy arising in regard to the location of lots. This part, which had previously received the name of Leeds, in common with the other parts which were designated as Hoopeston, comprises 160 acres lying either side of the east and west road, upon which the switch of the road is located, being 100 feet west of the crossing and running 1,400 feet. A private switch is also being built from the north and south road.

Not yet satisfied with the extent of territory occupied by the town plat, Messrs. Moore and Brown purchased 50 acres McCracken 10 acres, of Thompson Bros., adjoining north Hoopeston and on the 16th day of December, converted them into additions to the town.

Thus the four corners of the crossing, comprising nearly 500 acres are divided off into appropriate portions for the building of a large and beautiful city. Of these there have already been sold for business and residence purposes over 750 lots many of which are already occupied by buildings, and many more to be built upon as soon as Spring opens. Some of the buildings are well worthy the prospects of our new town, and indeed would be an honor to many of our cities. This must soon become a place of considerable importance. The two construction companies which were building the roads, Snell, Taylor & Co. and Young & Co., looked with covetous eyes upon this railroad crossing, both inwardly vowing that they would possess the prize. Both com-

panies were in the height of their prosperity (this was in 1871, before the panic of '73 had knocked the bottom out of every railroad enterprise and construction company in the country), both being managed by shrewd, determined, positive men, who were not in the habit of being thwarted in their plans. Both, at that time, "knew no such word as fail." "When Greek meets Greek then comes the tug of war," and this struggle between the two contestants for this prize was about the only "war record" this young city ever knew. Young & Co., through their agent, Alba Honeywell, made acceptable terms with the land owners on the east of the Chicago, Danville, Vincennes road, and supposed they had made terms with Thomas Hoopes, but while they were like the servant of the prophet, "here and there," Col. Snell closed a bargain with Mr. Hoopes for one thousand acres of his land lying west of the junction, and forestalled Young & Co.

## READY TO SELL

Mr. Hoopes knew enough to manage a good farm, but he doubted his ability to go into a scramble for selling city lots; for this reason he would have nothing to do with the business, but was ready to sell out to either party.

When Young & Co. found that they were defeated in their plan of getting control of all the land which would come into the town plat, they bent their efforts to make the most of what they had, while the other firm, intent on a like operation, hurried up the platting of their part, and making such improvements as should offer strong inducements to business men. In the rage for speculation three separate towns were laid out and recorded. Davis and Satterthwaite laid out eighteen acres, on the 28th of July, where Main street is, and called it Hoopeston. Snell, Taylor & Co. (consisting of Col. Thomas Snell, of Clinton; Abner Taylor, Esq., of Chicago, and James Aiken, who had died in Chicago, with Mr. Mix of Kankakee, as a special partner) laid out in November 160 acres where the Hibbard House stood, and called it Leeds. Thompson Brothers laid out east and north of the railroads, and called it North Hoopeston; and Davis and Satterthwaite an addition to Hoopeston, making, with some other additions, about 500 acres in all.

The track of the C. D. & V. road was laid through town on the 24th of July, 1871, and not a house nearer than a mile. The next day a few people collected to see the surveyors drive the first stake of the future metropolis of the prairie. Charlie Wyman was the first to commence laying off and selling lots. Messrs. Lukens Brothers were the first to purchase. On the 28th of July, Mr.



Wyman's office, the first building, was built by J. C. Davis, who was the pioneer carpenter and did a prosperous business until he was repeatedly burned out. Jonathon Bedell started the first grocery store. The strife between the different land proprietors grew warm. The proprietors of Leeds built a large hotel three stories high and had it ready for occupancy that fall, and soon after that built the fine brick block, two stories high, and the five frame one-story stores and the large livery barn, all of which buildings stood there practically unused. They put in wide sidewalks, set out shade trees, graded up the streets and ran the grade out a mile for their center. They made very liberal offers to such as wanted to rent buildings of them, but the lots lying between their improvements and the lands of the other proprietors they would not sell at any price. Their plan looks reckless now, in the light of eight years, but after the contest they had for the possession of the town, there did not seem to have been any other course for them to pursue. Had they permitted the lots joining the tracts of the others to be put on the market first, they could hardly have expected to retain the business on their lands. The proprietors of the original town were pushing their lots into notice and every person who purchased there became an attorney in fact to work up a sale of the remaining lots as fast as possible.

### MARKET STREET POPULAR

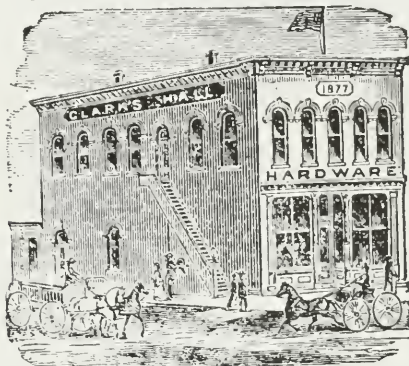
During the first season the lots along Market street of North Hoopston, were the popular ones, and nearly every business was located on that street, which became the thoroughfare of trade and commerce. Way out north of the railroad, for four blocks, buildings went up in quick succession, nearly all the stores, the post office, the printing office, and in fact nearly everything called business was in North Hoopston. B. F. Sites was pretty nearly in the center of trade.

In October the post office was established and J. M. R. Spinning was appointed postmaster, a position he continued to hold until 1878, when Judge Dale Wallace was appointed, but the first mail did not arrive here, for some unexplained cause, until the 9th of December, when it was brought from Rossville in an open buggy which had to be provided for the occasion free of expense to the post office department. It was not until the 1st of January, 1872, that mail came by the trains.

In October of that year religious services commenced to be held in the store of Mr. McCracken; this was for some months headquarters for religious instruction and heavenly intelligence. The people were not so particular what a man's denomination credentials were; if he could preach, and was not above occupying "McCracken's pulpit," they heard him gladly. Seavy & Wallace commenced the publication of the first newspaper ever published in Hoopston, issuing the first number on the 11th of January, 1872, of "The North Vermilion Chronicle." The first number gave a very full account of the "Early days of Hoopston"—the town was less than six months old, and was full of interest to every resident. The first number which came from the press was put up at auction and sold for \$32.50; the few succeeding copies were also sold in the same way, commanding sums which made the young proprietors feel an assurance of certain success. It was a seven-column folio and contained about six columns of advertisements. The following persons and firms made known their desire to do business with the citizens of Hoopston and the surrounding prairie, in the first number: Whipple & Brown, S. K. White, G. C. Davis, Deamude & Lefever (of Rossville), Ed. Stemp, J. W. Elliott, G. H. White, Moffett & Kirkpatrick, J. Bedell, E. D. North, F. G. Hoffman, Miller & Brother, A. B. Perkins, R. Morey, Given & Knox, R. McCracken, Roof & Rae, R. S. Robb, Dr. Anderson, Dr. McCaughey, J. C. Asker, Esq., J. H. Phillips, Snell, Taylor & Co., C. L. Wyman and B. Sanders. The paper continued to be published under that name for a year and a half, and then the name was changed to the "Hoopston Chronicle." After about four years Seavy & Wallace sold it, but a year later Mr. Wallace purchased it and continued to publish it. The "Chronicle" has always been a first-class local paper, and has received liberal patronage from the enterprising, stirring citizens of this lively young city. It is republican in politics.

### HOTELS

Among the first objects of interest to a traveler is a comfortable place which he may call his home. A good square meal often favorably disposes a man, and we are happy to state the proprietors of the West side have recognized this fact in building a commodious and beautiful hotel at an expense of \$7,700, which we understand is soon to be opened. The building is 30 x 50 feet, with a culinary department of 16 x 24 feet; the main building is 3 stories high, covered with a "Mansard" roof, with blinds, and a veranda on two sides. It is furnished completely from cellar to garret, and contains 21 sleeping rooms, each with accommodations for stove and furniture. The building is at present occupied by Mr. G. H. White, who has furnished (temporarily) several rooms. Aside from this, Mr. Nathan Williams has built and furnished a reasonable sized boarding house 20 x 40 feet, two stories high.



Clark's Block, erected in 1877

### BUSINESS HOUSES

Nearly every branch of business is being represented. Already there are a good number of business buildings either in operation or being completed. Lukens Bros. are just opening a stock of Dry Goods, in a building 20 x 80 feet, which is finished in the best of style, situated near the crossing in Hoopston proper. Dr. Roof's Drug Store, 18 x 40 feet; R. McCracken's Dry Goods and Grocery Store 20 x 60 feet; Miller and Bros. Grocery Store 20 x 50 feet; and Thompson block, 48 x 60 feet, to be occupied by hardware and dry goods, all two stories high and well finished; J. W. Elliott Variety Store, M. Bedell Grocery Store, F. G. Hoffman, E. D. North Drugs and Medicines, comprises the principal business houses already erected and in operation. Mr. Charles Wyman and R. McCracken are building a hardware and agriculture implement store, 24 x 60 feet, two stories, near the crossing on the west side.

### LIVERY STABLE

A large and elegant stable has been built by the proprietors of Leeds; 35 x 80 feet, with half pitch roof and cupola, capable of accommodating 25 head of horses, and will hold 50 tons of hay, and 2,000 bushels of grain. At present it is occupied by Mr. Stewart White. There are several smaller business houses and shops.

### PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS

The character of a people is generally known by their public spirit, manifested in their improvements. Elegant public buildings are a sure index of energy and thrift. Our people have been too much engaged with their private cares to manifest very much public spirit; from one, judge all. The proprietors have made ample provisions on either side for public squares and parks, which they propose to ornament with walks and trees. We are also informed that 5,000 maple and elm trees are already engaged to be set out on the west side on every street, which will add very much to the beauty of the place. Most of the streets also in that part of town have been graded, and an effort has been made in that direction on the east side. There are also four public wells in different parts of town.



## SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES

The general opinion now is, that a school house, and one or more churches, will be built next summer. Appropriate lots have already been offered by the proprietors for this purpose.

## POST OFFICE

To the gratification of the people of our town and vicinity, the mail is now received daily. The post office at Hoopeston was established October 25, 1871; the first regular mail was received December 9 from Rossville, and for the first time on the train January 1, 1872.

## IMPORTANCE OF THE STATION

The importance of the station may be seen from the amount of business done since the opening of the railroad. For the first month, August 1871, the receipts were \$11,808.91, and the total receipts for the remainder of last year, were \$22,569.15; the total shipments were \$6,644.87, making the business of the station amount to \$29,214.00, in four months.

## DONATIONS TO RAILROAD

The township of Grant voted a donation to the Chicago, Danville and Vincennes Railroad, of \$18,500, to be paid in ten years. Thompson Bros. also gave it a half interest in 200 acres, to locate the switch and freight buildings upon the same. And Mr. Hoopes, Messrs. Davis and Satterthwaite, have bound themselves by contract, to give them 15 acres provided the passenger depot be located in the northeast corner of the crossing, upon the land of the latter. The township also subscribed \$25,000 for the Lafayette, Bloomington and Mississippi Railroad, as stock in said road.

## RESIDENCES

As yet fine residences are rare, not having had time to build them. Among the best is that of G. C. Davis, which is built in the form of a "T", two stories high, the cost being \$1,800. R. Morey has also built a good house in Leeds, which cost about \$1,500. The residence of Wm. A. Brillhart, in North Hoopeston, is now in the hands of the builders, and will be completed at an expense of about \$2,000.

## POPULATION

On the 1st of January, 1872, five months after the surveyor's stakes had been driven in the wild prairie, 70 buildings had been erected and the population was 245, and by the first of January, 1873, less than one year and a half, 180 buildings were up, the population had increased to 800, 17 miles of streets had been graded, three hotels built, a bank started, the principal streets provided with sidewalks, an elevator built, and over 40 business houses in full operation. The history of Illinois may be searched in vain for a parallel to the sudden growth and development of the wild prairie. Only in the wild speculations of mining camps can the like be found. Chicago was many years in making a similar growth. Neither has this growth proved fitful and uncertain. The men who first pinned their faith to Hoopeston remain to realize, in great measure, the full fruition of that hope. The failure of the speculative enterprises of Snell, Taylor & Co., after investing about \$25,000 in buildings and improvements, is the only exception to the general success.

## INCORPORATION

On the 12th of January, 1874, a petition was presented to the county court of Vermilion County by W. R. Clark and 56 others, praying for incorporation as a village under the Act of 1872, with the following corporate limits: the east half of Section 11, the west three-fourths of Section 12 (23-11), and the south half of the southwest quarter and the southwest quarter of Section 2 (23-12). The court entertained the prayer of the petitioners, and appointed an election to be held at the store of William Brillhart, January 31, to vote for or against such organization, and appointed W. R. Clark, T. J. Corr and J. S. Dellose judges of such election. At such election, 174 votes were cast, 98 being for and 76 being against such incorporation. The court ordered an election to be held Saturday, February 28, for six trustees for the government of said village, and appointed the same judges to conduct the election. At that election, 172 votes were cast, and the following trustees were elected: T. J. Corr, J. Bedell, N. Dauner, W. R. Clark, S. P. Thompson, L. North.

The board of trustees proceeded to organize by electing T. J. Corr president and J. M. R. Spinning, clerk. A vote of thanks was unanimously returned to L. Armstrong, Esq., for swearing the trustees into office. J. W. Hawkins was appointed street commissioner, G. W. Seavy, police constable, and J. S. McFerren, treasurer. At the regular annual election, April 21, W. R. Clark, S. P. Thompson, N. L. Thompson, Thomas Watkins, W. A. Brillhart and L. Armstrong were elected trustees; A. H. Young, police magistrate, and J. S. Powell, clerk. The salary of the clerk was fixed at \$100. Just how this flourishing village got into the order of cities seems to be a mystery. Certain it is that there is no record of any action taken, by vote or otherwise, to get into city organization. Indeed it is said that at the time of this metamorphosis there was no law on the statute books permitting the change from village to city, and that the entire proceeding was illegal. The only reasonable explanation is that Hoopeston, like the parliament of Great Britain, could do anything, and just naturally moved out from its outgrown position of village, and took orders in the city line, with a kind of "who's afraid; bring on your almanac" air. The question of its right to do so is yet unsolved. The present officers (1879) are: A. Honeywell, mayor; W. M. Young, clerk; Mr. Bedell, treasurer; H. H. Dyer, attorney; J. Miller, A. M. Fleming and Joseph Crouch, aldermen.

At first Hoopeston was three-headed, as has been heretofore explained. The effort of those who had her best interests at heart was to combine these three and condense the business as much as possible on Main street, so that now her finest structures are found on that street. The buildings which were put up by Snell, Taylor & Co. have gone into disuse. The Hibbard House, at the time of its building, was the finest hotel in the county, and the stores are almost all unoccupied. The line of Market street has been pretty nearly abandoned by the mercantile gentlemen, although some good stores remain there. The fine bank building built by Mr. McFerren in 1876 is 24 x 60, brick, two stories and basement. It is a very neat building, nicely trimmed, and is occupied by Mr. McFerren as a bank, and with his partner, as a real estate office, and by H. H. Dyer as a law office, on the main floor. The entire basement is occupied by the "Chronicle" office editorial and press rooms. Above, the Masonic fraternity have an elegant lodge room. The building cost \$5,000, and is the finest building in town. In 1877, W. R. Clark and Dr. T. J. Roof built the two-story brick double store across the street, west from the bank. It is 50 x 100, occupied by the proprietors below, and by the Odd Fellows over Dr. Roof's, and as a public hall over Mr. Clark's. The building cost \$7,500. Thomas Hoopes, the same year, built the double brick store north of the bank. It is 45 x 80, and occupied for stores below and offices above. It cost \$7,000. The little city contains a number of other substantial business houses and residences that would appear respectable in any town in the west.





# Hoopeston - at the Turn of the Century....

BY FERN ANDERSON

In the early 1900's, Hoopeston had three newspapers; THE HOOPESTON NEWS, HOOPESTON CHRONICLE, and the HOOPESTON HERALD.

Hoopeston, always proud of its churches records. The Church of Christ was built in 1872 at the corner of Honeywell and Sixth Street. The First Baptist was organized March 6, 1873, with six constituent members.. D. H. Chapman was elected deacon and church clerk. The First Methodist Church was one of the earliest churches and held the largest membership. The Universalist Church was organized in August, 1882, by the Rev. T. S. Guthrie. The congregation worshiped in the opera hall until 1866. The First Presbyterian Church was organized on May 3, 1872. The Free Methodist organized in 1893. Other places of worship were the Roman Catholic church, the United Presbyterian, the Little Quaker, the United Brethern, with the Christian Science the last to organize in 1898 with 14 original members.

Many secret societies, clubs and associations were organized with cultural clubs ranking high, including literary and musical



MAIN STREET LOOKING EAST

the firm; C. E. Russell, Hon. Charles A. Allen; M. G. Woolverton, under the name of Allen and Woolverton.

J. S. McFerren had much to do with the founding of Hoopeston. McFerren Park stands as a memorial to the family. J. S., fondly known as "Jake," his two sons, the late Donald and William, each gave so much of their time, money and efforts to the city.

The Illinois Canning Company was established in 1875, by S. S. McCall. Two years later it passed into the hands of the Illinois Canning Company, consisting of William Moore and James A. Cunningham. The favorite "Joan of Arc" brand had since been outstanding and known throughout the world.

Businesses were built by Ezra Briggs; Thomas H. Smith, a saddlery and harness business; and the burglar alarm, invented by T. O. Saine. Roy Lyons was familiar for his livery barn and turned out single or double rigs. With a shop opposite the Cunningham Hotel, George Schussler was known as a good shoe



MAIN STREET LOOKING WEST

clubs, such as Oratorio, and the Ministerial Union. The Owl Club, one of the oldest, will soon celebrate their 75th year, and are still active. At this early date there were 17 secret societies. The Hoopeston Baseball Club and the Hoopeston Gun Club furnished sports for the local marksmen.

The Hoopeston Public Library had its origin in the Mary Hartwell Catherwood Tea Club, and by it was fostered until the city assumed legal control. The library was built in 1905.

Among professional men in the late 1800's were Doctors J. A. Ingle, L. B. Russell, J. S. Adsit, F. P. Johnson, T. C. McCaughey, Leroy Jones, W. P. Peirce, W. R. Wilson, D. D. Weber, and J. D. Hazel. Also Doctors John Heaton, George M. Hanley and J. H. Hutton, all of whom were dentists.

Successful attorneys were C. M. Briggs; Dyer and Wallbridge, with James H. Dyer, father of Charles Dyer, as senior partner of



MARKET STREET LOOKING SOUTH

maker.

H. W. Philips was the general manager of the Union Can Company, now the American Can Company, and the Sprague, now known as FMC Corporation, was organized by Daniel G. Trench, and B. P. Crane, Chicago, and P. H. Green of Farnham, N. Y., in 1897.

The oldest blacksmith shop was owned and operated by Otto Johnson. W. A. Flint was a real estate dealer, James A. Hanna owned and operated a flouring mill, and Mrs. F. W. Wells operated a picture gallery, including many penny pictures, buttons and pictures of her own work to frame. Mrs. Joseph Dallstream sold the finest millinery in the latest colors and styles and John A. Fickle operated a furniture and undertaking establishment.

Others operating businesses during the early years were the Hoopeston Grain and Coal Company; C. Glover, a man's tailor;



MARKET STREET LOOKING NORTH



D. M. Hooker and Son, music store; C. Homrighous, jewelry; and Benjamin Rice, also proprietor of a blacksmith shop. Mrs. M. Franks was a noted teacher of piano, and Cora VanPherson was local agent for a sewing machine.

In the year 1881, Professor August Geiger, graduated from the Royal Seminary of Wurttenburg, Germany, and came here that year to teach music in the Greer College.

M. V. Brickey operated a hardware store opposite the post office and Bock and Son, John Bock and Fred, were painters and paperhangers. T. J. Sappington did cement work; Ben McElhane, blacksmithing; L. C. Norris, carpenter and contractor; Park and Logan, city steam laundry; and the Palm Ice Cream Parlor was operated by Paul H. Hussey. Fred Murphy's barn, opposite Brilhart House, a famous eating place, sheltered horses when farmers came to town. Other familiar names of men in business were O. P. Chamberlin; Levi Rice; Mrs. M. A. Stites, a successful undertaker and furniture dealer; R. M. Knox, real estate; B. Oppenheim, grocery and department store; Mrs. A. E. Cook, dressmaker; and Charles T. Putman, lumber businessman; Parnell Brothers, Albert, Frank, and George, in dry goods and ladies wear; J. S. Dunscomb, grocery; W. C. Rose, meat market; and A. B. Burtnett, also a grocerier.

In the year 1882, A. H. Trego, J. S. McFerren, and A. T. Catherwood organized and incorporated the Hoopston Canning Company, now known as Stokely Van Camp.

The Ingle Manufacturing Company was organized by Scott Ingle and E. C. Bird in 1899, manufacturing elevator separators, milling separators, etc.

John Karr, Jr., a noted grocery operator on the north side, and the Haupe and Karr, builders and repairers of bicycles, were located just south of the L&E&W railroad on North Market Street. The Dyer Lumber Company was managed by J. H. Potter. Mrs. G. M. Hanley's dairy located on the south side of town, was noted for being "Kitchen clean" and the fresh bottles of milk were delivered fresh and cool to families in the city. Thomas Woolverton operated a machine shop, built in 1881. The J. T. Sharp feed shop, opposite the city hall, supplied feeds of all kinds. The Thomas Baxter restaurant was east of the Cunningham Hotel and the Walter Johnson Photo Studio operated here more than 60 years, until Mr. Johnson retired due to ill health. E. S. Hall also operated a photography gallery, while John Steffenson sold kerosene and gasoline from a wagon and was known as "the oil man." Mrs. Minnie H. Seavey's millinery establishment was a landmark in Hoopston and ladies in need of fine millinery could always be found there. Final touches were put on by Mrs. Seavey. C. F. Davis owned and operated a furniture store near the post office and Frank Nelson had a complete stock of wagons and buggies. Later Mr. Nelson owned and operated one of the most modern hardware stores, which is now operated by his son, William, and daughter, Marcella. P. F. Levin was noted for his groceries and bakery products. A good place to eat was the restaurant operated by L. Street. He also sold the finest in smoking materials. The firm of Erickson and Swanson sold first class clothing, and J. W. "Jim" Sherrill devoted his time to delivering express. J. B. Brown manufactured many brands of cigars to be sold locally and also for shipments. Mrs. Thomas Lee sold millinery in the Dyer-Fuller Building. The firm of Mahoney and Dazey were real estate brokers and another hardware store was operated by Newson and Leemon. C. W. Snively was long noted for his skill in butchering. New and second hand furniture was sold by Louis Fried on West Main Street. The "Red Light" Restaurant was a popular eating place. It was operated by Sam J. Brown. W. C. Cook was a grocerier of long experience and required a large force of men to operate his business. Among the early days, the millinery shop of J. S. Pees and Company, on Bank Street opposite the Brilhart House, was noted for "prices always right." The Music House of Marion Clements was a place where a piano or organ could be purchased. Karn and Zook did a first class delivery business in their mammoth brick barn on West Main Street, and the ladies favored Myers' Cash and Carry Store with D. T. Myer as proprietor. Another grocery store with a flourishing business was operated by Hartley Hobson with berries, fruit, vegetables, and a complete line of staples ready

## Photos from the Early 1900's:



TOWN HALL



CITY HALL



UNIVERSALIST CHURCH



MASONIC HALL



THORNTON BUGGY CO.



for sale. George Miller operated the "Blue Front" grocery, and the Globe Restaurant was operated by the Alkires. The Flagg brothers were druggists and John O. Lyons managed the poultry house for the E. Bogan and Company. Conrad Schade gave to the people of Hoopeston excellent bread, cakes, and pies, and it is said "He never sleeps, he always has a supply, even wedding cakes, on hand." C. E. Lester pharmacist, operated Lesters Drugs until his death, at which time Wib Carlson continued, later purchasing the business which is still know as Lester's Drugs, on East Main Street. Joseph Dallstream operated his boot shop and William Silver after coming here in 1879 was a reliable contractor. The Brillhart House, later known as Farmers Cafe, was known far and wide for its excellent accommodations and was in the charge of J. T. Liber.

Through the years, businesses have come and gone, many changes have taken place, but the forefathers of the town will always be remembered and it is with sadness when residents here talk of the McFerren Opera House in the early 1900's, when such features as "The Squaw Man," "The Lion and the Mouse," "Flaming Arrow," and other wholesome comedy as well as drama and concerts were featured. The Opera House was destroyed by fire on February 20, 1937, at which time a bank, Lester's Drug Store, Elliotts Drug House, Klingam's Clothing Store and Dollie Ann's Beauty Shop burned. The second town clock building was destroyed by fire in early 1925 and was rebuilt. It was destroyed again by fire in 1947, when the town clock building, the Arcade building, Central Illinois Public Service Offices, the office of Doctors R. G. Kline and Hannell, and the ballroom on the third floor of the building as well as several apartments of the second floor. The first town clock building was erected in 1895 and burned down in 1905.

Fire has taken its toll, burning the local newspaper, CHRONICLE HERALD, about 15 years ago, the old Maple School, which five years later was rebuilt with the new modern school, the Universalist Church, dedicated June 18, 1905, burned February 20, 1950. The tower of the church contained the famous chimes with the organ highly important in its past history and so intimately entwined with the past. The chimes were recovered later and installed in the First Christian Church which was dedicated January 28, 1900, but were completely destroyed when that church burned December 7, 1953.

The next big fire was February 7, 1956, when the east end of the 300 block of East Main street burned. The fire started in the J. B. Sim's garage, spreading into the Wood and Stocker Furniture Store, and completely destroyed  $\frac{1}{4}$  block. Keck's Furniture went in the new building formerly occupied by Wood and Stocker.

The Cragg Hotel, a beauty shop, and coffee shop burned March 17, 1964.

The Cunningham and Trego families have also played an important part in the progress of Hoopeston. Major Trego was recognized as "one of the old guard," who helped make Hoopeston the enterprising city it has become. He was associated with J. S. McFerren and later with Jake Cuykendall

and his sons, Ed, Walter, and Gilbert in the old Hoopeston Canning company.

The old Honeywell School, erected in 1872-74 was later torn down and the new school built.

The first water tower stood in the center of the intersection at East Main and Fourth Streets, and was truly a landmark. Before the trees attained their present lofty heights, it could be seen for miles.

The first garage was constructed in 1906-07 by Jess Kellogg, for Harry Knorr, Frank Troxel and Ed LaBounty. It was situated just north of the Nickle Plate railroad.

Hoopeston was listed as a "new town" in the county. It is not as old by any means as Rossville, Danville, Marysville, now named Potomac, Cattin, Georgetown, Vermilion Grove, Ridgefarm, and other communities which date from the 1830's and 1840's. Hoopeston was slower in getting started, but it overtook every village and city in the county with the exception of Danville in population, industry, education and personnel.

Hoopeston, despite the many fires, has through the years rebuilt whenever possible. We are noted as a Canning community, listed as the "Sweet Corn Capitol of the World." Canning continues throughout the year at Joan of Arc Company and Stokely's canneries.



DR. GEORGE M. HANLEY'S SUBDIVISION



MULES WORKING IN THE FIELDS



THE ILLINOIS CANNING CO.





BIRDSEYE VIEW LOOKING EAST FROM BETWEEN MAIN AND PENN STREETS



HOOPESTON PLANING MILL



HOOPESTON CANNING CO.

SPRAGUE CANNING  
MACHINERY CO.

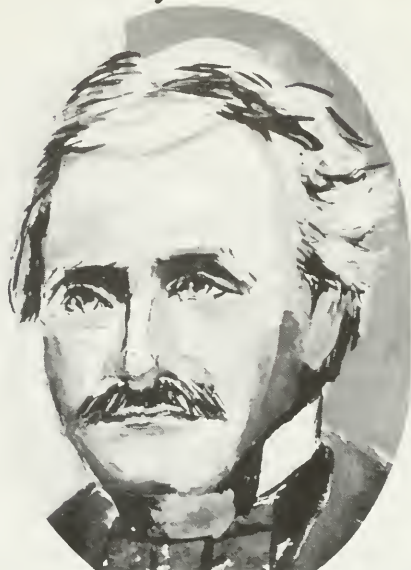


AMERICAN CAN  
COMPANY



## Hoopeston might have been "Honeywell"....

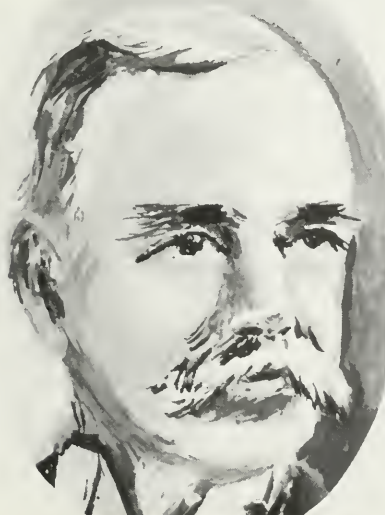
ALBA HONEYWELL, Hoopeston, farmer, was born in Cayuga county, New York, on the 15th of December, 1821, and is the son of Enoch and Eliza (Dye) Honeywell. When a youth his parents settled in Stenben(now Schuyler) county. He was brought up to the pursuits of the farm. At age sixteen he began his education, attended Groton Academy two years, and after teaching a year, continued his studies two years more at the Oneida Institute. He next taught eight or ten years. About 1843 he went to Seneca Falls and while engaged in teaching, read law in the office of Ansil Bascom. The next year he went to Rochester, and studied in the office of Gilbert & Osborne. He resided there a year and was a delegate to the Buffalo Convention, which nominated James G. Birney, the abolition candidate, for President in 1844. Until 1847 he was engaged in the temperance and anti-slavery lecture field, wrote several plays in the interest of the temperance cause, and contributed a number of poems to the Philadelphia "Dollar Newspaper," wrote stories and stray communications bearing more or less directly on the reform questions of the day for other papers. In July, 1847, he went to New York city, and worked for a newspaper and published one for a short time. In April, 1853, he emigrated to Iroquois county to a farm of 800 acres, which he and his father had entered the year before. He lived there three years, increasing the farm to 1,400 acres. In 1856, he went to Minnesota and Iowa in quest of a better location, and in the fall went to Chicago and worked on the staff of Chicago "Daily News." In the spring of 1857 he went to Logansport, Indiana, and became connected with H. H. Everts in his celebrated patent shingle machine, in which venture he lost \$4,000.00. He next formed a lumber manufacturing firm which lasted two years and a plow-handle and bending establishment, but at the end of two years sold out his interest to his partner. In 1862 he returned to his farm in Iroquois county, and in 1864 was elected supervisor of Stockland township, and re-elected every year until 1869, when he was elected county clerk on the Republican ticket. In 1872 and 1873 he bought 1,000 acres of land adjoining Hoopeston, a part of that city being laid out on it. In 1874, he removed there, and has been engaged in improving his estate. Altogether, he owned two thousand acres of land, valued at \$80,000.



ALBA HONEYWELL

Honeywell was mayor 1879 and 1880, was widely known for lecturing on temperance and anti-slavery. He assisted in laying out Hoopeston and helped secure the location of the Chicago Railroad. It was largely through his aid that Hoopeston grew and became prosperous. He made two sub-divisions while a resident here. When the railroad offered to name its station "Honeywell", he declined and it was named Hoopeston.

## Culture came and so did banking....



J. S. McFERREN

JACOB S. McFERREN, Hoopeston, banker and real estate broker, was born in Warren County, Ohio, on the 1st of October, 1845. His parents were William and Eliza (Snyder) McFerren. He received a business education at Bartlett's Commercial College, Cincinnati. His father having always followed the mercantile business, he was reared to the same pursuit. At age fifteen he quit school to take a half interest with his uncle in a store at Levee, Ohio, and two years later his uncle formed another partnership, and commenced operating in grain; but a heavy decline and other bad speculations caused the firm to suspend with heavy liabilities. In his short, independent business career McFerren had made a clear profit of \$3,000, but by the unfortunate speculations of his partner he lost all but \$800, which so reduced his capital that he was obliged to begin on a salary. In August, 1865, he started west, and located at Paxton where he took charge of the books of J. W. Scott and was later employed with R. Clark, one of the oldest merchants of Paxton, as bookkeeper. At the end of a year Clark's health failing, he offered to turn over his stock of goods to his nephew, A. L. Clark, and McFerren, and loan them all needed capital. This partnership and enterprise proved highly fortunate. McFerren at length determined to embark in banking and real estate brokerage, and, accordingly, associated with himself T. W. Chamberlin. They opened a bank in Hoopeston on August 1, 1873, keeping their doors open throughout that trying period. Early in 1874, owing to ill-health, Chamberlin retired from partnership. Maintaining his working capital at a uniform figure, he had invested the profits in first-class farming lands in Vermillion, Iroquois, and Ford counties, which were valued at \$60,000. The spring of 1877, McFerren was elected the first mayor of Hoopeston on the temperance ticket.



# The young city needed education...

**WILLIAM MOORE**, Hoopeston, real estate broker, was born in Coshocton county, Ohio, on November 30, 1841, and is the son of Silas and Mary (McCoy) Moore. He was reared a farmer; educated at Spring Mountain Seminary, Ohio; was taking a preparatory course at the breaking out of the Civil war, with a view to fitting himself for the law; volunteered on the 23rd of April, 1861, for three months, in Co. D, 16th Ohio Vols., and promoted to orderly sergeant; mustered out the next August. He was commissioned 1st Lieutenant by Governor Dennison, on October 3, 1861, with authority to raise a company, which he enlisted mostly among the students of Spring Mountain Seminary. He fought at Phillippi, Perryville, Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain, Mission Ridge, and Ringgold. In January, 1863, he was commissioned captain of his company. In the battle of Chickamauga he lost nearly every man in his command. One half were killed and wounded, and a large number captured. All the regimental officers of the 51st having been taken prisoners, Capt. Moore, as ranking line officer, assumed command, and with a handful of men, bearing the colors of the regiment, and a stand of rebel colors captured from a South Carolina regiment in the last charge, cut through the rebel lines and safely reached Chattanooga the next day. On two particular occasions he was selected for special service of a difficult and hazardous kind. He was mustered out of the military service in April, 1864. In March, 1865, he settled in Grant township, having bought a farm of 320 acres. From 1866 to 1874, he was justice of the peace; from 1867 to 1870, collector of Grant township; from 1866 to 1872 school treasurer. He bought 50 acres of land at Hoopeston and had it laid out in the town plat as Moore and Brown's addition. In April, 1872, he moved into the village, and engaged in buying and selling lands and town property. In the year from March, 1874 to March, 1875, the sales of the firm of Moore, McFerron & Seavey reached \$330,000; he was a member of the firm of Moore and McFerron in the real estate and loan business. Moore was one of the first directors of the Hoopeston public school several years. It was through his energy and enterprise that the imposing edifice belonging to the city, and used for that purpose, was erected in the face of much opposition. It cost \$25,000, and is a



**WILLIAM MOORE**

noble monument to his good understanding and his able management of the entire scheme from its inception. He has three children: Winfield S., Claude H., Cora M. and was a greenback republican. He owned 600 acres of land, worth \$18,000 in 1911.

Moore was a senior member of the City Council in 1904 and was one of the most vigorous of Hoopeston's citizens, having helped in every progressive movement since the early seventies. He was one of the commissioners for appraising and condemning the right of way for the I. E. & W. railroad. In connection with J. S. McFerron, he bought and laid out the McFerron addition. He was interested also in many other additions to the original town.

In conjunction with G. C. Davis, Moore sent the first saloon keeper to jail for nine months for selling intoxicating liquors in 1873. He was author of the bill for making the salary of the Mayor of Hoopeston 50 cents a year and of the aldermen 25 cents a year. In conjunction with J. A. Cunningham and W. R. Clark he established the Illinois Canning Company, and with others helped to establish the Union Can Company and was president of the same. This afterward became the American Can Company. In conjunction with John L. Hamilton, C. S. Crary and A. H. Trego, Moore helped to establish the Hoopeston Horse Nail Company.

In many respects William Moore, of Hoopeston, was the most striking personality in his home city.

## **MARY HARTWELL CATHERWOOD**

In 1882, James Steele Catherwood and his wife, Mary Hartwell Catherwood, came to Hoopeston. She had had several of her writings published in Lippincott's Magazine and other periodicals of the day, but branched out to write novels after arriving here.

During her 20 years in Hoopeston, she published well-known novels of "Lazarre", "The Spirit of an Illinois Town", and "Rocky Fork."

The club bearing her name was formed in 1895 and still exists as a culturally-oriented society. The public library was begun by the club which was responsible for obtaining land from Alba Honeywell (who donated it) as well as for raising funds to construct the building which cost \$12,000.

Mrs. Catherwood was a leading factor in Hoopeston's cultural background.



**MARY HARTWELL CATHERWOOD**



# Legacy of a man named Tom....

THOMAS HOOPEES, for whom Hoopeston was named, is a good sample of the better class of those fortunate people who have greatness thrust on them without ever praying for it or entertaining any strong faith in its coming. He grew up to stalwart manhood in Chester county, Pennsylvania, and emigrated to Harrison county, Ohio. He lived in Marion awhile, and in 1853 came here and bought the farm of Wm. Allen. He moved to the farm in 1855. This land lay northwest of the present site of Hoopeston, crowning a hill on the old Chicago road. As time passed Mr. Hoopes added to his land until he had seven or eight thousand acres. He became the most extensive stock raiser in this part of the country sending his product to the eastern markets, and spending his profits for more land. He bought some land of D. C. Andrews and C. J. Hungerford, and undertook to get it into shape to get a living from it. He brought 800 sheep with him, and by taking in a herd of cattle to tend each year, he managed to keep inside of his expenses. There was no place for stopping on the Chicago road from Bicknell's Point to the "red pump," near Milford, when he made his home on the big prairie. The first year he had to go over to Jordan to buy corn, and pay seventy-five cents a bushel for it; since that time he managed, by careful economizing, such as he is master of, to raise enough for his own use. He did not go into wheat very extensively, as many others did about that time, but raised corn and oats. Within three years he got about 300 acres into good cultivation, having over 1,000 acres in prairie grass to keep the herd on. The vast range was suitable for the health of his sheep, the absence of neighborly dogs was favorable, and, by keeping up in a close pen at night, they were safe from the attack of wolves. Wolves, though apparently bold when they have a free field for escape, are cowards when hemmed in by a high fence. They would not climb into an enclosure where the sheep were in a crowd; they seemed to fear being penned in. He did not raise many hogs, but kept his flock of sheep and herd of cattle increasing. He never drove cattle to the markets, being satisfied that he knew enough to raise cattle, but was not sharp enough to try any risks of a speculative nature. In 1859 he sold a thousand sheep, and during the war, sold off the remainder, thinking that if the war kept on there would not be young men enough left in



THOMAS HOOPEES

the country to take care of what he had, and if it did not continue, his sheep would fall in price. His nearest neighbors, for some years, were Col. Woolverton and Churchill Boardman to the south. He had no more idea of seeing a city grow up on his farm here than of seeing a volcano; and when the road was built, and Snell, Taylor and Co. wanted to buy him out, he had no desire to go into any speculation in city lots, and sold them a thousand acres for just what he believed it was worth. At the age of 73, he had a quiet home in the little city which the railroads forced on him. He died in 1893 at the age of 93.

## Agriculture and Industry thrived....

JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, Hoopeston, farmer and stock-dealer, was born in Vermilion county, Illinois, on the 22nd of June, 1843. He was the youngest son of James and Mary Ann (Andrews) Cunningham. He was reared a farmer, and obtained his schooling at Evans Union College, State Line City, Indiana. In the winter of 1864-5 he pursued studies in bookkeeping at the Commercial College at LaFayette. In August, 1862, he enlisted in the 125th Illinois, but was rejected by the examining surgeon. He was married on the 4th of April, 1865, to Miss Mary R. Scott, adopted daughter of Thomas Hoopes, an old and highly esteemed citizen of Vermilion county. Mrs. Cunningham was born on the 9th of April, 1844. In the summer of 1865, he settled in State Line City, and opened a grocery store; he soon after added a stock of drugs, and after a year of business sold out to George Dunn. He then engaged in stock dealing a short time, and early in 1867 moved into Grant township. He was named president of the Hoopeston District Agriculture Society in 1874. This society held a number of distinguished fairs, and has acquired a reputation unsurpassed by any of equal age, and by few older ones, in the state. This success is traced to the ability, energy and enterprise of its thorough-going and practical officers. Mr. C. has always been a heavy farmer and stock-dealer, and was one of the presidents of Hamilton and Cunningham bank; and was one of the most liberal, substantial and honored citizens of Grant township, having served as an early mayor. In 1879 he owned 1,000 acres of land, worth \$30,000. His political views were republican.



JAMES CUNNINGHAM



*Congratulations to Hoopeston  
on 100 years of Progress!*

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Ralph & Ruth Sills, Owners

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Community  
Since  
1912*

**WORTHEN'S**

**Congratulations**

*to the Sweet Corn  
Capitol of the  
World!*



*We toast our community  
on 100 years of growth  
and welcome visitors.*

**HOOPESTON  
JAYCEES**



# A PRARIE VIGIL...

Conditions in this part of the county at this time is pictured by an adopted daughter of Thomas Hoopes, Mrs. Cunningham, then a child, whose playmates were "sky and prairie flowers in the summertime, with the bleak cold in the winter." A description of her experience on a night in late autumn in this lonely place... reads "The shadows of declining day were creeping over the prairie landscape, when this child, young in years but older in experience, as were the pioneers, stood listening for a familiar sound. The cold wind came sweeping from far over trackless wilds, and with almost resistless force nearly drove her to the protection of the house, yet she stood and listened for a familiar sound, straining her ear to catch the rumble of a wagon which told of the return of her foster parents, who had the day before, gone to an inland town for provisions to last them through the coming days of winter. They had gone on this errand some days before and were due to come back every hour. This young girl had learned to love even this solitude, and while she listened for the sound of human life she noted the hull of the fierce wind, the whirring of a flock of prairie chickens, frightened from the accustomed haunts fleeing by instinct to the protection of man. Suddenly a wolf gave a sharp bark on a distant hillside, then another, and another and yet another answering each other from the echoing vastness. With a shudder, not so much from fear as from the utter lonesomeness of the time and place, she turned and entered the house, but she could not leave these sounds outside, she heard the mournful wail. It is impossible to describe those sounds. So weird, so lonely were they that the early settler remembered them always. The lack of courage of these animals was made up in the increased numbers they called together, whether it was to attack the timid prairie hen or the larger game of the open. Surely these wolves were fit companions for the Indians.

The interior of this little house was much better furnished than were those of the early settlers of Vermilion County who came into other portions twenty-five years before this time. It was easier to transport furniture and the homes of this period were less primitive in every way. When the girl went into the house she found the "hired man" had milked and was ready for his supper. He seated himself at the kitchen stove and remarked that he did not think "the folks" would come home that night.



as it would be very dark and every prospect of a snowstorm, they surely would not leave the protection of the nearest settlement to venture on the prairie that night. The little girl busied herself with the supper with grave misgivings about her people, whom she earnestly hoped would venture to come home, but for whom she feared would be injured. She could not eat and going to the window she pressed her face to the glass and took up her silent watch. Soon taking his candle, the hired man went to his bed, leaving the girl to keep her watch alone. After a little, she imagined she heard a faint sound; she ran to the door and threw it open. As the door was flung open their faithful shepherd dog bounded in. He was closely followed by a number of wolves who were chasing him and almost caught him. They stopped when

the light from the open door fell upon them. The girl hastily closed the door and shutting them out shut the dog within. There all was silent on the prairie, except the howling of the wind and the wolves silently slunk away in the darkness. The girl turned to the dog and eased his mind by a bountiful supper, when she took up her watch once more. She hoped almost against hope as she pressed the window pane, scanning the horizon. As the night wore on the storm increased in violence, the wind drove the snow in sheets of blinding swiftness, piling it high on the window ledge, and obstructing the view across the expanse. The wolves were silenced by the terrible storm, but the faithful dog yet scented them in the near neighborhood. The old clock slowly ticked the hours away while the girl sat by the wooden table in



the center of the room with drooping head and strained ears, until she dropped to sleep from sheer exhaustion. Uneasy were her dreams as her slumber was broken through discomfort and the ever recurring growls of the dog at her feet who growled at the scent of his pursuers. As the hours passed the girl crossed herself and went to the window. The storm clouds had partially cleared, and the young moon had peeped out with a faint light. Casting her eyes down, she looked into the piercing orbs of two wolves who were standing in the glare of the lamplight. The girl turned to the dog and, dropping beside him, buried her face in his woolly coat and bursting into tears called out, "Taylor, what shall we do?" With a growl and a glance toward the opening which said as plain as words, "I do all I can to protect you," he lay with his nose to the crack in the door. The hours wore away, and the girl and the dog watched alone on the prairie. Toward dawn, the dog sprang to her side with a low bark of delight. He had heard and recognized the voices of his friends, and was telling his companion that those for whom they were keeping vigil were very near. Soon they were housed in safety. A new day was theirs while all the terrors of the night had been vanquished. The sun came up, the deer were dashing from one snow bank to another, the wolves had slunk away, the agony of the night was passed away. Such were frequent occurrences in the section of the country in and about Hoopston for the Thomas Hoopes family.

June 6, 1872. There are now 2 trains passenger on the C. D. & V. RR. and you can now go to Chicago and return on the same day.

June 13, 1872. The 1st & 2nd Nines of the Wild Fire baseball club of Hoopston will play a match game next Saturday.

The Passenger train going South, ran into James Murks' team of horses and severely injured one of the animals. It is not thought that he will survive.



# He came to Hoopeston...

DALE WALLACE, (grandfather of Dale (Rusty) Wallace II) in a talk before a Hoopeston audience, some years ago, describes that village when he first saw it. He came to this new village on the Illinois prairie a young man full of hope and promise. He entered the town on the freight train of the C. D. & V. R. R. (commonly called the "Dolly Varden") which consisted of six gravel cars and a caboose. The conductor stopped his train at about where the stock yards were afterward located, and told the only passenger, this same young man, "This is where you get off, Kid." With the wisdom of his years he said: "I guess you are mistaken: I want to go to Hoopeston," said the "Kid."

"Well, this is Hoopeston."

"Where," asked the Kid.

"Over there in the brush," was the rejoinder.

The Kid meandered around through a forest of resin weeds and finally halted at a little shack on the road running east and west, which afterwards proved to be the main street. The shack proved to be a department store; the front being the department, ten by twenty, it was filled with a few dollar's worth of everything, while the rear department was the residence of the proprietor, who housed his wife and three children. The establishment was that of Jonathan Bedell, the first merchant of Hoopeston. He was rotund and hospitable and the following conversation was had between him and the "Kid:"

"Are you lost?"

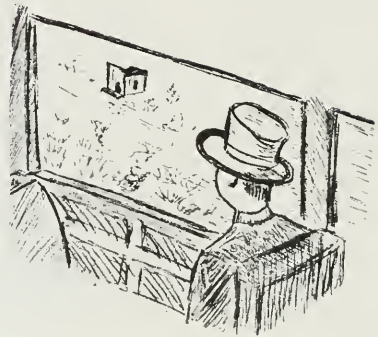
"No, I am not, but I think this town is."

"What did you come here to do?"

"Start a newspaper."

"---you are crazy."

"Shake. I have been thinking that myself for the last ten minutes, and I am glad to have it confirmed."



"Are you lost?"

"No, but I think this town is!"



DALE WALLACE

A few rods on further to the next mud hole, was a grocery store run by J. W. Elliott, who later went to Danville. Adjoining this was a drug store, by E. D. North. On west, across the street, was Charley Wyman's real estate office. A way up north opposite the northwest corner of the park was a clothing store, operated by J. Fleshman. Adjoining was a grocery store, by Miller Bros. Along the railroad track was Robert Casement's Lumber yard. This was in the fall of 1871. On the first Thursday of January, Mr. Wallace together with G. W. Steavey, launched the Chronicle, then called the North Vermilion Chronicle. In that

first issue every businessman, every carpenter, painter, etc., in Hoopeston, had an advertisement in the newspaper, very encouraging to the young men who had started it. Roof & Roe, E. D. North, and Frank G. Hoffman, were druggists. R. McCracken was a general merchant. Bedell and Elliott and Miller Bros. were grocers. Ed. Stamp was the Butcher. S. K. White had the livery stable. G. H. White was the real estate and insurance agent. A. B. Perkins sold lumber and coal, Given & Knox were grain merchants, G. C. Davis and Moffet & Kirkpatrick were contractors. T. C. McCaughey, M. D., and L. W. Anderson, M. D., were the physicians. J. C. Askerman was the lawyer and B. Saunders was the shoemaker. This was four months after the Hoopes' farm was platted into town lots. Every week brought new business men to town. P. F. Levin came early in 1872, also B. W. Clark. W. W. Duly was the township tax collector. Before the year expired there were a half dozen grain buyers, and it was not an uncommon sight in the fall of 1872, to see 50 to 100 loads of corn waiting a chance to unload with buyers paying the enormous price of twenty-three cents per bushel. The real-estate business was very active both in city lots and country property. Land now worth \$250 per acre then sold for \$15 to \$25 per acre. Business lots then bought for \$125 some time ago, were worth \$5,000.

Hoopeston grew rapidly and business enterprises kept pace with it. About 1872, J. S. McFerren and Wright Chamberlin established a bank. J. M. R. Spinning was the first postmaster. A spirit of enterprise pervaded every nook and corner of the little hustling village. About every thirty days the enterprising citizens would hold meetings and build factories and railroads on paper. The first year of existence Hoopeston had a circus and menagerie. This gave the newspaper a chance to give news. Business houses multiplied rapidly, all branches being well represented by January, 1873. The Chronicle gave a resume for the year, showing the erection of 180 buildings, 27 of which were business houses altogether. The grain men brought 450,000 bushels during the year. The freight business of the "Dolly Varden" road amounted to 40,000. Hoopeston has had a phenomenal growth and is a small city of beautiful homes.



# Centennial Car

*to be awarded  
through the Centennial Benefit Awards Program.*



SPECIAL DELIVERY—Mayor Earl Smock is shown receiving the keys to the Centennial Car from Hoopes-ton Motors, Inc. (dealer Jay Hertz). The Ford LTD with full power, air, vinyl roof, hardtop, will be given away during the official Centennial "Closing Ceremonies" in downtown Hoopes-ton. Project is being planned by the Centennial Benefit Awards Program committee.

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT CENTENNIAL HEADQUARTERS

To commemorate our 100TH BIRTHDAY, we're going to award this new LTD to one Lucky person. It might be YOURS!

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For 96/100ths of the century, lumber has been sold at this location.

First here was M. D. Calkins Lumber Yard, succeeded by J. H. Dyer Lumber Company in 1887. Then the Dyer company merged with Finley & Lewis, grain merchants, to start the present corporation on Feb. 1, 1905. Thus we have helped build Hoopeston.

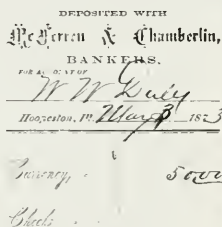
*Congratulations On The 100th*



*Congratulations*

**On Hoopeston's "100TH"**

Grandfather Duley  
was doing business in  
Hoopeston in 1873, when  
he made this deposit  
in the McFerren-  
Chamberlain Bank.



We're happy to be doing business with  
Hoopeston in 1971.

Best Wishes for a Happy Centennial

## W. TATE DULEY

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**OUR HISTORY IS NOT TOO LONG . . .**

**. . . BUT IT HAS BEEN**

# WONDERFUL!

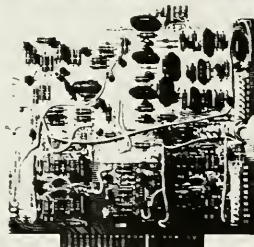
We started on the upper floors of the Wildon Building making one tube record players. When we had finished the lot, we had made 20,000 of them.

But that was 20 years ago and since that time our business has grown apace and we have grown to a full-fledged factory unit turning out the most sophisticated electronic designs in America.

Our products, known for their high quality are distributed all over the United States and abroad. Many of the components are of our own design and manufacture, and have found ready acceptance in the electronic trade.

With this growth we have implemented and learned many shortcuts. Where we used to print circuits by hand we now use a machine. Where we used to drill each circuit board for connections, we now stamp them out in huge presses. Not only do we now do a faster job, but it is also a better job.

The world has beaten a path to our door with orders from all over. We believe our tested quality will assure a continuance of this procedure. Anything built of electronics we can do, and do exceedingly well. Think of us in this connection.



A highly sophisticated computer type board manufactured by Scranton used in switching phonograph records for a juke box. If it had been possible to have made such a unit twenty years ago, it would probably have weighed more than 50 pounds and taken up a thousand times more space. It uses 32 transistors and hundreds of capacitors and resistors.

## R. A. SCRANTON

INDUSTRIES, INC. HOOPESTON, ILLINOIS



## Best Wishes to the Hoopeston Centennial

We hope  
you'll join  
us next  
year for  
our 100th  
Birthday.  
(1972)



Main Street in Wellington looking East. Photo taken in 1913.

We're now in our 58th year — serving  
the needs of the area.

## WELLINGTON STATE BANK

Member F.D.I.C.

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**We've Changed, Too!**  
*Everything, in fact,  
except our name...*



A 1904 PHOTO OF OUR BUSINESS

*We're proud to have served  
our friends since 1897.*

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FLETA EVANS, OWNER

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For the **BEST**  
in home entertainment:

Radios — TV's  
featuring  
Motorola Quasar  
(Sales & Service)

Music Supplies  
pop music books, tapes,  
records, instruments.



Our best wishes to a growing community  
for a happy Centennial.

## FERDINAND TV AND MUSIC

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*Styles Come...and Styles Go...*  
**But**

## LARSON'S

is "Always" here  
in Hoopeston  
with the LATEST . . .  
the NEWEST!

Hoopeston's Clothing  
Center for  
Men and Boys.



Featuring these GREAT BRANDS:

Kuppenheimer — Greif — Curlee Suits  
Arrow — Enro — Shapely — Kaynee Shirts  
Munsingwear Knits — Jarman Shoes  
Farah, Gulfstream Slacks — Rainfair Coats

## LARSON'S

Est. in 1903  
Hoopeston, Ill.

Nye & Jane Reetz



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COMPLETE  
LINE OF NEW AND  
RECONDITIONED  
PARTS FOR



• AUTOS  
• TRACTORS  
• TRUCKS

Complete  
MACHINE SHOP  
SERVICE

CALL

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## HOOPESTON

STANDARD PARTS CO., INC.

109 N. MARKET  
HOOPESTON

Your NAPA Jobber is the  
RIGHT PLACE to go!

Have a

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Neighbors!



DEPKE  
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DANVILLE  
SINCE 1928

See Our Dealer in Hoopeston

## ILLIANA SEED & FARM SUPPLY

W. THOMPSON AVE.

We congratulate  
HOOPESTON on it  
100TH BIRTHDAY!

We are here to serve  
the populace of this  
still growing city.

We offer FULL CIRCLE SERVICE  
By PEKIN INSURANCE CO.

Auto - Home - Life  
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Intersection of Routes 1 & 9

ORA J. BAER OWNER

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Hoopeston, Illinois

## REAL ESTATE BROKER

National Home Builder  
Appliances

Intersection Of Routes 1 & 9

## ORA J. BAER CO.

217-283-6639

Hoopeston, Illinois



# 100 Years of Schools

In no respect does the public spirit of the people of Hoopeston show a better development than in the matter of schools. No sooner had the village got under way than a live board of directors was elected—G.C. Davis, Mr. Armstrong, and Wm. Moore—who preached at once to put the school in running order. The first need was a suitable house. It became a question whether the district should build a good substantial well-proportioned, large school house—one within whose walls all could be accommodated, and whose spacious proportions, beautiful surroundings and pleasant appointments would inspire the pupil, and awaken taste, love of school and culture—or whether cheap, scattered buildings should be erected, in which a strict grade could not be instituted. The former was wisely chosen, and it was through this decision that the Hoopeston public schools were known far and wide as among the best in the country. This action necessitated a heavy debt, but it was soon nearly wiped out.

1872

In May 1872 Mrs. B. F. Stites started classes above her husband's undertaking establishment on North Market. She had sixty-three pupils.

In the summer of 1872 Miss Fannie Demaree opened up a room in Baxter's Blacksmith Shop on East Main.

Both these schools were Subscription Schools.



HIGH SCHOOL



LINCOLN SCHOOL

1873

In January 1873 the first public school was opened in the Christian Church which was in the 600 block of East Honeywell, where the old John Petry residence still stands.

George Dove was the teacher.

1873-74

In the winter of 1873-74 Honeywell School opened. It was located where the Honeywell Apartments are now. It was also the first High School.

1879

The first class was graduated from high school and included Emma Jones Spence, Mary Finley Honeywell and Harry Aiken.

1891

John Greer College was founded.

1892

Lincoln School, a four room brick building, located on the corner of First Avenue and Lincoln Streets opened its doors.

1897

The second high school was opened for classes. It was located where the Maple School now stands. Children in the grades who live in this area were shifted from Honeywell and Lincoln to the High School.

1914

The high school moved out to John Greer College on West Main where John Greer Grade School now stands. The old high school became the Maple Grade School.

1927-28

A new Honeywell School was built on the present site.

A new section was also added to John Greer High.

1944

A fire destroyed Maple School, May 30, 1944. Because of the War, they were delayed in the rebuilding. It was December of 1949 before they were in their new building.



HONEYWELL



GREER COLLEGE

1955-56

A new high school was erected on East Orange near the Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital.

The old John Greer High School became John Greer Junior High.

1968

An addition was built on to Maple — four rooms.

Also plans for a new Junior High were underway.

1969

Junior High is now in their new building on East Orange adjoining the high school.

Lincoln Grade School is also in a new John Greer Grade School.

The old John Greer College building has been razed. Only memories remain.



# 100 Years Later

**PRESENT SCHOOL BOARD:** William Samaras, president; Charles Peterson, secretary; Ed Layden, Jr.; Arthur "Cotton" Longfellow; Sharon Houmes; Edson Eells, Winston Bash.

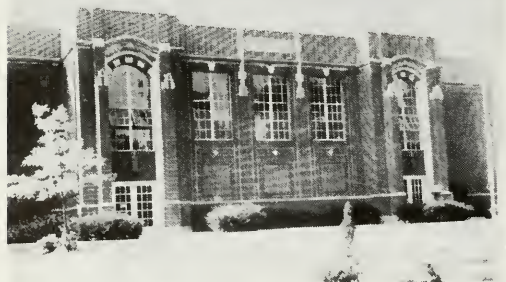


**JUNIOR - SENIOR HIGH**

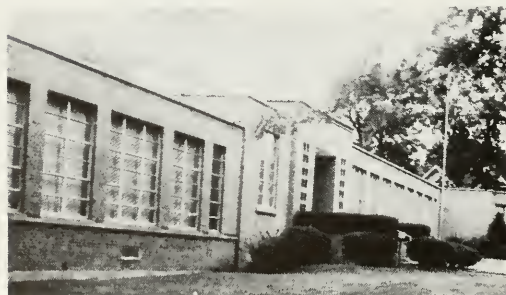
100 YEARS LATER

Hoopeston has maintained its high level of education and within the past two years, has completed a \$1 million building and remodeling program which voters approved a year earlier.

Included in the program was the razing of the old John Greer College which was used as a high school and junior high before it was found unsafe. In its place, a new elementary school was constructed and now houses John Greer Elementary students,



**HONEYWELL**



**MAPLE**

## LIST OF THE SUPERINTENDENTS

### FIRST TO PRESENT

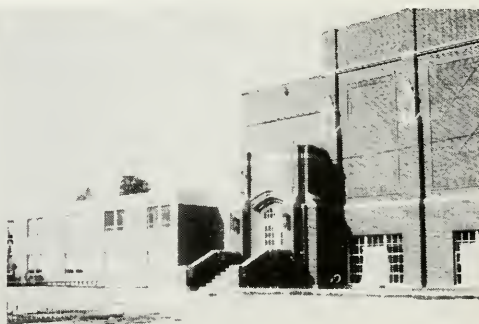
1897 - 1905	S. A. D. Harry
1905 - 1909	Arthur Verner
1909 - 1915	S. K. McDowell
1915 - 1916	T. M. Birney
1916 - 1942	W. R. Lowery
1942 - 1947	Nelson Stork
1947 - 1960	Jared Lyons
1960 - 1965	Paul Seitsinger
1965 - 1971	Leo Huffman

who formerly attended Lincoln School at Lincoln and South First avenue.

Lincoln School was also condemned as "unsafe".

Other improvements included construction of a large junior high complex attached to the west end of the high school and several new rooms were added to the senior high itself.

An addition was built at Maple School (Maple and South Fourth streets) and remodeling was done on Honeywell Grade School at the same time.



**JOHN GREER**

1970-71

Honeywell School — Principal Kenneth Hughes; Teaching Staff — 16 regular teachers, 1 band teacher, 1 music teacher 1½ days, 2 remedial teachers. Enrollment — 350;

John Greer School — Principal Ralph Keller; Teaching Staff — 14 regular teachers, 2 special education teachers, 1 remedial teacher, 1 music teacher. Enrollment — 369;

Maple School — Principal Ruth Keran; Teaching Staff — 13 regular teachers, 1 band instructor, 1 music teacher 1½ days. Enrollment — 367;

Junior High — Principal Ralph Huffman; Teaching Staff — 23 regular teachers, 7 that teach in both junior and senior high. Enrollment — 430.

Senior High School — Principal John Griffin; Teaching Staff — 23 regular teachers, 1 guidance counselor, 1 librarian. Enrollment — 368;

Present-day Schools — 3 Elementary, 1 Junior High, 1 Senior High, 1 Junior College in Danville, 1 Christian High School near Potomac.



# Greer College

Greer college was founded and endowed by the late John Greer in 1891, who gave his fortune as a heritage to all young people who are ambitious to rise in the world. Like most men, Mr. Greer's life had been one of toil and trial. When young, his opportunities for an education were meager enough, and this he believed caused his life to be more irksome than it otherwise might have been. Business and normal colleges, such as Greer College, were unknown when he was a boy, and the common schools were then poor at best. He desired to make conditions better, and so resolved to found a college where young people of any age would be received and educated with care and patience, no matter how poor their early means for schooling had been. The beautiful buildings of Greer College stand today as a monument to the memory of a true philanthropist and lover of young people.

The buildings of Greer College cost nearly \$50,000 and were provided with all modern conveniences. Several hundred dollars were expended during the early 1900's for libraries, laboratory apparatus, tables, cases, commercial offices and desks, cabinets, microscopes, air pumps, electrical machines and appliances, good water supply in laboratory, biological and geological specimen, skeleton, charts physiological models and typewriters.

The college buildings occupy a commanding site in the western part of the city. The campus had a beautiful sloping lawn, ornamented with trees and shrubbery. The grounds were high, affording perfect drainage and a pleasant view of the city and surrounding country.

The main building was a magnificent specimen of modern architecture. It was built of St. Louis pressed brick laid in black mortar. The arched entrances and large landscape windows were set in cut stone. The trimmings were of rough stone, terra cotta and ornamental iron. It was heated throughout with steam lighted with electricity and gas, and supplied with an abundance of pure artesian water.

The inner appointments of this building were all that could be desired—comfortable, convenient and elegant. The college auditorium or assembly room had a seating capacity of about 700 persons. A commodious gallery in the type of an amphitheatre extended around three sides. The lighting and ventilation of the rooms was perfect.

Greer hall was a fine brick structure containing comfortable apartments for gentlemen students and teachers. The rooms were arranged in suites and the interior finished similarly to that of the main building—natural wood oiled.

The president's home was a large modern home fitted with electric lights, steam heat bath, etc., where young women had elegant rooms with all the comforts and conveniences of a home life while attending college.

The library and reading room was a commodious apartment, well lighted, warmed and ventilated. Among the reference books were encyclopedias of history and literature, atlases and the standard dictionaries. There were valuable scientific and historical works, books of biography and travel, standard fiction, polite literature, poetry, etc. The leading magazines and teacher's journals and the local and Chicago papers were kept on file.

The courses of study consisted of two-year courses in commercial work, stenography, civil service, elocution and penmanship; four-year courses in preparatory, normal and music, and four-year college courses that entitle students who finish them to the usual degrees given for the various courses, such as

Bachelor of Arts, (A. B.), Bachelor of Literature (B. Lit), Bachelor of Science (B.S.), etc.

The school was non-sectarian, but a thorough Christian spirit was maintained. Daily devotional exercises were conducted, and students were advised to attend at least once on Sunday the church of their choice. The different denominations were represented on the faculty and almost every denominations sent its students. The teachers were workers in the respective churches, and the usual young people's societies were encouraged.

Two student literary organizations were maintained—the Olympian Literary Society was organized by the young men and many prominent young men of this state and others could trace their success in public life to the training received while members of the Olympian Literary Society.



What has been said of the Olympian Society is also true of the Vesperian Literary Society, which was the young ladies' Literary Society of the school.

The Y.M.&Y.W.C.A. have a great influence upon the student life of the school, and most of the students are members of these.

The Alumni Association in 1911 consisted of 439 members and many of them were occupying important positions in public and private life throughout this country and also in some foreign countries.

In 1891 when the college was founded the rates were as follows:

One term-(10 weeks), \$10.00; 2 terms, 19.20; 3 terms, 26.00; 4 terms, 28.00; 5 terms, 30.00;

Presidents of John Greer College were: 1. President McClure; 2. President Clary; 3. President E. L. Bailey.

In January of 1969, demolition of the building was begun. It had been ruled a safety hazard a few months earlier and was beyond feasible repair. A new elementary school was built to the west and south of the building and completed in late 1968.

March, 1969: Broken glass, scattered piles of brick and shattered shingles were all that remained of old John Greer.



# FOR MORE THAN 76 YEARS AMERICAN CAN COMPANY

## Has Been an Integral Part of the Hoopeston Community

Three score and sixteen years ago our predecessor, the Union Can Company came to this community. In the ensuing three-quarters of a century we have grown and prospered away beyond the anticipations and belief of our early forebearers.

And we have changed mightily. Starting in a primitive atmosphere we have now become a highly sophisticated plant.

Our growth has not been easy, nor has it come naturally. It has rather, come about through energetic planning and execution of high ideals. So it is our quality today is unsurpassed with the "tin can" becoming an integral part of our society.

Without tin cans our civilization would grind to a halt. They provide the means of pure and wholesome food, indefinite storage time and an ease to the housewife never enjoyed before our advent.

Our grandmothers never had it so good. Home canning of foods for the winter season has largely passed out of the picture. For today's housewife can pick her choice from thousands of items right off the super-market shelves.

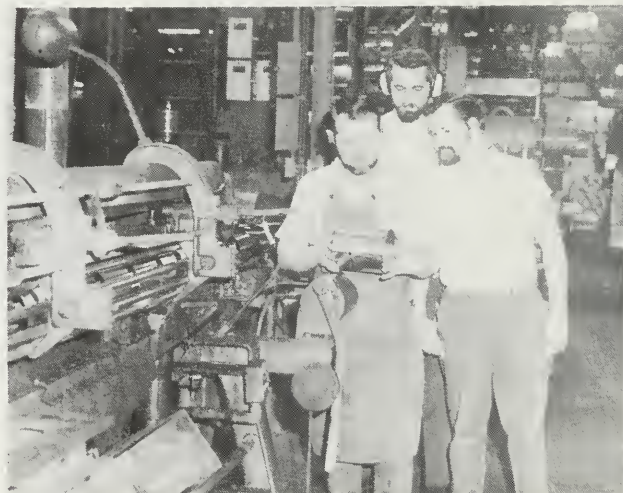
No longer does she have to wonder if the seal has remained unbroken and the contents palatable for her family.

And through the years the percentage of family income devoted to food has dropped consistently because of the tremendously high efficiency of our customers, the canners who use our cans and process food for your table.

And so we say to you today, good living and good food! And all because it comes in a tin can made right here in Hoopeston.



BACK IN 1880—This was the crew at American Can Company at the turn of the century. We're sorry we don't have all the names, but maybe you can pick out Grandpa or some of your relations.



THE WAY WE DO IT TODAY—James Martin, Larry Powley and Wilbur Carter in a scene from our modern plant! The latest technology and machines now form a perfect can every time, assuring our customers the ability to can wholesome, healthy foods.



# AMERICAN CAN COMPANY



# A Hospital Grows...

Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital had its inception in 1956 when Harry J. Silver, then president of Hoopeston Chamber of Commerce, appointed a committee to make a feasibility study and survey of needs of the community for hospital services.

As a result of this study, a corporation was formed to further the aim of establishing a public hospital in Hoopeston. The original Board of Directors for the purposes of incorporation was comprised of Frank R. Mills, Vernon B. Western, John A. Crumley, J. Ed. Holt, and Harry J. Silver. Incorporation papers were filed with the Secretary of State of Illinois April 3, 1956. During the incorporation period, Attorney Charles F. Dyer gave invaluable service to the project in serving as legal advisor without charge.

To pursue the project, additional board members were recruited, and the original board which then served during the study and fund-raising phase was composed of John A. Crumley, president; Frank R. Mills, vice-president; Martin Young, finance chairman; W. Tate Duley, secretary; Larry J. Oyler, treasurer; Ralph C. Anderson, Curtis L. Boardman, Laverne D. Frazier, Harry Holtkamp, Harold L. Link, Harry J. Silver, Roberts E. Snively, Dalph Stipp, Vernon B. Western, J. Ed. Holt, Donald J. McFerren, Gary H. Finch. Attorney Joseph C. Moore II, served as legal advisor during the fund-raising and planning stages. Dr. Werner Fliesser served as an advisor to the Building Committee.

The entire community joined in the fund-raising effort, and in addition to a professional fund-raising organization, local people conducted many activities for the benefit of the fund including



## Charter Board Members

1960

PRESIDENT  
FIRST VICE  
SECOND VICE  
REC. SECRETARY  
CORRS. SECRETARY  
TREASURER  
PARLIMENTARIAN

EDNA SAMARAS  
SELMA YOUNG  
HILDA ROBINSON  
IRMA ZOOK  
ELINOR MARTIN  
ARLENE HATFIELD  
RUBY KLINE

SEWING  
MEMBERSHIP  
PURCHASING  
VOLUNTEER SERVICE  
WAYS & MEANS  
PUBLIC RELATIONS  
FINANCE

RUTH LAYDEN  
FRANCES BURTON  
DOROTHY CRUMLEY  
CLARA HOTT  
JOAN RUSSELL  
LEAH KAZMARK  
LORETTA BELL



# Hospital

bazaars, auction sales, raffles, and solicitations. After the professional fund-raising effort had ended, new life was given the drive by the addition of Ernest McIntyre to co-chairmanship with Martin Young of the fund-raising committee. When it was felt that local efforts had progressed as far as possible, contact was made through the good offices of Donald J. McFerren and his son-in-law, E. H. Shoemaker, Jr. of North Platte, Nebraska, with Lutheran Hospitals and Homes Society of Fargo, North Dakota. Fred Knautz, Executive Director, and Harry Malm, Assistant Director, of that organization visited Hoopeston to survey the situation and ultimately agreed to join in the effort and to operate the hospital when completed. Government funds were also applied for and granted under the Hill-Burton program, and at long last the funds were available to commence the project.

Ground-breaking ceremony was held on Sunday, October 30, 1960, with John A. Crumley, president of the Advisory Board, and Mrs. Edna Samaras first president of the Hospital Auxiliary, turning the first spade of earth.

During the construction period while the building was being erected by Francis X. Ready Construction Company of Danville, Illinois, further organization plans were prepared and membership drives in the auxiliary conducted.

Dedication of the hospital was conducted July 15, 1962, with ribbon-cutting ceremonies presided over by President Crumley. Mr. Knautz, the late Dr. J. C. Moore, first chief of staff of the medical staff, Mayor Joseph C. Moore II, Michael H. Weiss, Jr., first administrator of the hospital, Harry Malm, and Mrs. Nettie Lewis, first head nurse at the hospital. Also present were members of the board and auxiliary, and Dr. Werner Fliesser, vice-chief of staff, Dr. J. W. Hardy was first secretary-treasurer of the medical staff.

In addition to Dr. Moore and Dr. Fliesser, other local physicians who were on the medical staff when the hospital opened its doors were Dr. K. H. Kammond, Dr. T. S. Strzembosz, the late Dr. J. S. Bell, Dr. E. T. Yap, and dentists Dr. L. P. Dunn and Dr. J. W. Hardy. Other local physicians and surgeons now on the staff include Dr. E. P. Kosyak and Dr. K. Z. Abusief. Other physicians and surgeons from surrounding communities are also on the courtesy staff of the hospital.

The hospital opened its doors to patients on July 19, 1962, and the growth of its service to the community has been steady since that date. Others of the community who have served on the Advisory Board in past years in addition to the original board are: Claude Swartz, Thomas N. Martin, Dale L. Singleton, Archie Campbell, Elmer Unger, Russell Cloud, Robert A. Welty, Ronald A. Scranton, and Dr. E. P. Kosyak.

In addition to John A. Crumley, past presidents of the board include Frank R. Mills, V. B. Western, and Lewis Hott.

Harry J. Silver currently serves as president of the board, and other officers are W. Tate Duley, vice-president; Harlan Hatfield, secretary; and Leland Martin, treasurer. Also currently serving on the board are Lewis Hott, V. B. Western, Thomas E. Mills, Myron G. Harris, Floyd Worden, Thomas A. Thorne, Andrew Melin, Byron Hedgecock, Wade Swartz, and Robert Totheroh.

The hospital has had five administrators serving from time to time: Michael H. Weiss, Jr., Gary Speas, Jack Brewer, Charles Eide, and the present administrator, Alvin A. Riffel. After serving as the original administrator, Weiss returned for a second tour of duty following the administration of Mr. Eide.

The hospital was fully accredited seventeen months after its opening by the Joint Committee on Accreditation and has remained fully accredited since.

In 1967 the need for nursing home facilities was recognized, committees formed, and a second fund-raising drive conducted under the chairmanship of John A. Crumley and Martin Young, assisted by Ted Stump of Lutheran Hospitals and Homes Society. Funds raised, together with funds from Hill-Burton program and from Lutheran Hospitals and Homes Society, were sufficient to permit construction of a nursing home addition to the hospital which is expected to open soon providing fifty beds for skilled nursing care.

In 1964 Hoopeston Professional Building Corporation was formed to construct an office building to accommodate two offices suited for occupancy by physicians or surgeons just east of the hospital, and this, in addition to privately constructed physicians' offices in the same area, has formed a medical complex of which the entire community is exceedingly proud.

Area ministers have contributed to the services offered by the hospital by serving as chaplains in ministering to the patients' spiritual needs.

The hospital and the new nursing home give Hoopeston medical facilities not often equalled in communities of its size, and the credit must go to the community itself and its forward-looking citizens who carried the project to successful fruition from beginnings which were not always promising.

## History of the Hospital Auxiliary

The response of the women of Hoopeston and surrounding areas of Hoopeston was most gratifying in August 1960 when an organizational meeting was held in the auditorium of the Hoopeston high school.

The group represented a goodly cross section of town and rural potentials, with 129 homemakers, business and professional women all showing in their interested manner and response, their determination and pleasure in actually being at the point of forming an auxiliary to the project, so close to their hearts, the Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital.

Later in the month the representatives of the Lutheran Home Society met with the hospital board and expressed their pleasure and full approval of the plans of the organization of a hospital auxiliary.

In September of 1960 Mrs. Edna Samaras was elected as the first president of the newly organized Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital Auxiliary. Other officers nominated and elected included Mrs. Martin Young, first vice-president; Mrs. Wesley Robinson, second vice-president; Mrs. Paul Zook, recording secretary; Mrs. Leland Martin, corresponding secretary; Miss Arlene Hatfield, treasurer; Mrs. R. G. Cline, parliamentarian.

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### FACTS

December 1960 — charter members, 572; life members, 32.

February 1961 — The governing board of the Lutheran Hospital and Aid Society ratified the Hoopeston auxiliary by-laws with full approval and a copy was placed in the hospital.

Amount of money given for equipment for the hospital, \$44,122.43, with a book in the hospital lobby itemizing the equipment bought.

Auxiliary pledge to Nursing home, \$15,000, with last installment paid May 1970.

Membership in 1970 — 97, life members; 1200, regular members.



## (1871) Hoopeston Post Office (1971)

The first post office was established in October 1871, and J. M. R. Spinning was appointed postmaster, a position he continued to hold until 1878. Old documents in the possession of post office officials at the present day set the salary of the first postmaster, Mr. Spinning, at \$12 per year. In addition to this

salary, \$8 per year was allowed for transportation of mails from Rossville to Hoopeston, it being necessary to bring mails from that city in a buggy. The first mail arrived on the 9th of December 1871. It was not until January 1872, that mail came by trains into Hoopeston.

### A building grows....



This photograph taken September 5, 1917, shows the excavation where the Hoopeston Post Office was to be constructed.



On January 1, 1918, the construction had progressed to the point shown here and the building was taking shape.



By April 1 of 1918, this view taken from the southwest, shows the work nearing its completion on the exterior.

The present building was completed in 1918 at a cost of \$10,000. The appropriation was first passed by Congress in 1910, but various delays prevented the money for its construction becoming available until 1917, when construction started. It was completed and ready for occupancy on October 5, 1918, when the postmaster and his employees took over.

The building is a handsome structure of red face brick and stone, fireproof throughout. A spacious lobby forms the main entrance to the building, where hundreds of Hoopeston people came each day to transact business. Money order, stamp windows, parcel post and each special class of business handled by the post office were carried out separately. At one end of the spacious lobby is the office of the postmaster.

Salaries of postmasters were based upon the amount of business done by their offices. The salary of Postmaster Kelly Cardiff, from 1922-29 was in excess of \$2,000, which will give some idea of the rate of growth in the fifty odd years since founding of the city.

The securing of a federal building for Hoopeston was an achievement to which Hoopeston owes a debt of gratitude to ex-postmasters William Finley and Charles Warner. "Uncle Joe" Cannon, representing the eighteenth district in Congress, finally secured the Hoopeston appropriation.

To Postmaster Kelly A. Cardiff and his corps of assistants much of the credit for the excellent financial condition of the post office business here is due. Courtesy on the part of all employees, and a thorough knowledge of the vast business of which Hoopeston's post office is an integral part, has been rewarded by an increase in business each year at the post office.

Today (1971) more than 5 million pieces of mail are handled annually.



And by July 1, 1918, the Post Office building is completed outside, nearly as it stands today, July, 1971.

### Postmasters and dates of appointment:

James M. R. Spinning	Oct. 25, 1871	Charles W. Warner	Jun. 25, 1889	*C. A. (Ed) Sheets	Mar. 17, 1929
Dale Wallace	Nov. 20, 1877	William Finley	Jan. 20, 1914	Wilbur C. Welty	Oct. 10, 1929
J. S. Catherwood	Apr. 13, 1885	Kelley A. Cardiff	Jan. 1, 1922	*John Petry	Sep. 18, 1934
* Earl F. Smock		Mar. 31, 1962	Harold Morrison	Apr. 23, 1965	

(\* ACTING POSTMASTERS)

(Sponsored by Warren & Van Praag, Consulting Engineers, Decatur, Illinois)



## First Settler, William Allen

William I. Allen, one of the prominent men of Vermilion County, in the latter half of the 19th century, came from Ohio in 1844, and entered land in what is now the northwestern part of Hoopeston. It, at that time, however, was a tract of uncultivated land over which deer, wolves, prairie chickens and other wild creatures, had up to this time wandered undisturbed by man. There was not a tree or brush in sight, and the pioneer after building his cabin, frequently stood in his doorway and counted numbers of deer, sometimes as high as sixty in a herd. Mr. Allen was not married when he came here, but in 1848 he became the husband of Miss Emily Newell, the daughter of William Newell. He broke his land and improved his farm, working during the summer months and teaching school in the winter. Mr. Allen was a man of fine classical education. When he graduated from his eastern college he wrote a letter home in Latin, which the family yet have in their possession. Finally Mr. Allen sold out his land in 1855 to Mr. Hoopes and himself settled six miles west, where East Lynn now stands. By entry and purchase he acquired 3,200 acres of land which was mostly devoted to grazing. He built three houses and made other improvements, remaining there until after the breaking out of the Civil War. He enlisted in the 12th Illinois Infantry, which regiment was first ordered to Cairo and then to Paducah, Kentucky. After a little he was promoted to captain of the company, but became disabled for service and was returned home. He went back to his farm, but in a few months bought 500 acres in the vicinity of Rossville. A few years after he sold out again and returned to the northern part of East Lynn. This town was located on a part of the old farm when the railroad came through later.

In 1884, Allen moved to Cherry County, Nebraska, but he lived here only four years, when he returned to Hoopeston, where he spent the remainder of his days. Allen was the father of six children. One of them, Mr. Charles Allen, was a prominent citizen of Vermilion County, where he was born in 1851. Charles Allen represented Vermilion County in the state legislature for many terms and was a conspicuous member of each session. His home was always in Hoopeston. Mrs. William Allen was the daughter of James Newell and was born in Kentucky in 1824, coming to Vermilion county with her parents when she was but a small child. Her father was a prominent early settler, the township of Newell being named for him. The father of William Allen did not come to Illinois to settle but remained in Indiana as long as he lived.

William Allen bears the distinction of being the first settler of the northern part of the county. Allen was county assessor while living out here, and after selling out went back to Danville, thence to Perryville, and, in 1858, back to East Lynn, where he again pioneered, being the first settler in the northern part of Butler township. One son was engaged in law at Rossville and one daughter at East Lynn; the others were with their parents in Hoopeston. Mr. Allen saw this part of the country blossom into fruitful farms. When he first struck plow on his farm here, for miles in all directions, nothing met the eye but prairie-grass; even the great herds of cattle, which afterward were seen in these parts, were absent then.

## Abel Woolverton

Col. Abel Woolverton, one of the best known of the early settlers in this township, settled in 1840 on section 18, two miles northeast of Bicknell Point. His was probably the first settlement out on the prairie, and as others came in his name was given to the neighborhood, and is so called yet. He came from Perryville, Indiana, and had been in the Blackhawk war. He received the title of Colonel from his foster brother, Gov. Whitcomb, of Indiana. He was only able to enter a quarter-section at first, but afterward took land in sections 17 and 8. He engaged in farming, enduring the hardships consequent on early settlement on the prairie, raising cattle, fighting rattlesnakes

and wolves with the same bravery he had the Indians. There was no market for anything but at Chicago, and there he had to go, over bleak prairies, through rain and mud, which later was often one of the worst hardships the early settler had to endure. Points of trading at this time were Danville and Attica. He soon bought 160 acres more and then increased this amount to 400 acres. The following year his family came and occupied the land. In the family was a son of fifteen, who was to be a strong factor in the development of the northern part of the county. Charles Woolverton learned the carpenter's trade before and during the war. He enlisted in Company H, 70th Illinois Volunteers. This regiment did duty most of the time of their enlistment at Camp Butler, Springfield, and at Alton. They did garrison duty at Alton and furnished numerous details for guarding prisoners. Mr. Woolverton rose to the rank of colonel. Since the war Mr. Woolverton has been conspicuous in business and politics. He is a Republican.

## The Bicknells

As early as 1835, George and William Bicknell took up land at Bicknell's Point which was the last piece of timber on the route to Chicago until the valley of the Iroquois was reached. Mr. Lockhar, who came from Kentucky with William Newell, was the man who first entered land north of Bicknell's Point. Asel Gilbert entered a section of land south of Bicknell's Point in 1838. Albert Cumstock, B.C. Green, and James R. Stewart, early settled near this. Col. Abel Woolverton settled on section 18 in 1840, two miles northeast of the Point. He was probably the first settler in that neighborhood. He came from Perryville, Indiana. He had been in the Blackhawk war and was as brave in fighting the hardships of the new home in the prairie as he was in fighting the Indians. Col. Woolverton was a competent surveyor and his new home provided much work of this kind. William Allen was the pioneer in the northern part of the township. He came to Ohio in 1844. Thomas Hoopes, for whom Hoopeston was named, came in 1855 and bought Mr. Allen's farm.

## Floral Hill Cemetery

Record of early burials in Floral Hill Cemetery

ANN WOOLVERTON	April 3, 1857
ANNA M. HAMILTON	Sept. 21, 1859
THOMAS HAMILTON	Aug. 6, 1862
LT. JAMES K. WEIR, Co. B. 25 Ill. Inf.	June 21, 1864
First Veteran buried here	
JESSIE L. HOLMES	Aug. 5, 1864
ABEL WOOLVERTON	Nov. 22, 1865
JAMES A. HOLMES	Jan. 6, 1867
JOHN C. HOLMES	Feb. 4, 1867
Infant of A. HOLMES	Nov. 20, 1869

These burials were prior to 1870

Those buried here who lived to be 100 or more years of age are: GEORGE RANSOM, died at age 100, on May 11, 1958; CATHERINE M. TIMM, died at age 101, on Feb. 3, 1953; JENNIE GUNN, died at age 102, on Jan. 19, 1955; THOMAS L. PARRISH, died at age 103, on Oct. 20, 1964.

There were more than 8,500 burials in Floral Hill Cemetery as of March 1, 1971.

## Thornton Buggy Company—1904

The Thornton Buggy Company, H. L. Thornton and Earle C. Thornton, proprietors, manufactures all kinds of carriages. The plant consists of carriage repository, paint rooms, varnish and trimming rooms, blacksmithing and woodworking departments. It was established in 1900 and has a reputation for thoroughness and skill in all the different branches of custom vehicle building and repairing, with a steady growth in output.



When you're downtown . . . .

## Visit the Uptown Lounge

And help us  
celebrate  
Hoopeston's  
Centennial  
Year!



Stock up for the celebration  
from our selection of carry-outs.

## UPTOWN LOUNGE

FRED & JUNE SMITH

225 E. MAIN

TEL. 283-5630

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as in the Past....*



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QUALITY you demand —

in the STYLES  
you want —

at PRICES you  
can afford!

*Gary's*

HOOPESTON'S  
TRENDSETTER

## Happy 100th Birthday

## HOOPESTON

We plan To Continue  
Serving you with The Best  
T.V. Reception possible  
For The Next  
100 Years.

## HOOPESTON CABLE T. V.

310 E. PENN ST.

BEST OF LUCK:

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



American Legion has been a part of this community for over half of its 100 years. We look forward to many more!

IRA OWEN KREAGER  
POST 384

American Legion  
and Auxiliary



## Early Pioneers....

LYFORD MARSTON, Hoopeston farmer, was born in Plymouth, New Hampshire, on the 2nd of May, 1817, son of Oliver L. and Lavinia Magusta (Ryan) Marston. The Marstons were descended from English stock. They were a numerous and prominent family, the greater number of whom led sea-faring lives. In 1835 he emigrated to Bourbon county, Ky. There he taught school a year and a half, devoting his spare time to reading law under Thomas Elliott, of Paris. He was admitted to the bar in November, 1838, at Carlisle, county seat of Nicholas county, where he located for practice. He was prosecuting attorney for Nicholas county a number of years. In the fall of 1843, he took a position on the editorial staff of the "Lexington Enquirer," a Henry Clay organ. He maintained his connection with this until the spring of 1845, when the proprietor failed and the paper went down. He at once succeeded to the management of his father-in-law's firm, the latter having deceased. The beginning of the Kansas troubles inspired his pen to active use, and he advocated the anti-slavery cause in the columns of the "New York Tribune." In 1856, while visiting his native home in New Hampshire, he made numerous campaign speeches for Fremont. In 1860 he was a delegate to the Chicago convention which nominated Mr. Lincoln, and an elector on the Republican ticket for Kentucky. At the opening of the war he opposed, in the "Tribune", Mr. Greeley's cliché that the "erring sisters should be permitted to depart in peace." In the fall of 1863 he moved to Grant township in this county, and bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres. In the fall of 1878 he was elected by the Republicans to the general assembly.

JAMES W. CROUCH, Hoopeston farmer and stock raiser, was born in Warren county, Indiana, on the 10th of October, 1842. His parents were Joseph and Nancy (Watkins) Crouch. He lived in his native county until 1864, excepting two years (1857-8) that he was in Prairie Green township. In 1864 he came to Grant township. He herded cattle the first year for a Mr. Hunter, who subsequently became his father-in-law. For five or six years after this the same gentleman gave him the use of eighty acres of land. He made successive purchases, till he owned 440 acres of choice farming land, valued at \$13,500. The rearing of Norman horses is a branch of stock industry to which he devoted much attention. His fine farm was situated midway between Hoopeston and Ambia, on the L.B. & M. railroad.

EDMUND HEATON, Hoopeston farmer and school teacher, was born in Coshocton county, Ohio, on the 7th of September, 1853. He is a son of Hugh and Levia (McCoy) Heaton. His mother died on the 21st of April, 1861, in Holmes county, Ohio. In the spring of 1863 he came to St. Joseph county, Indiana, and the next spring to Vermilion county, Illinois, settling in Grant township. In 1877 he went to Marion county, Iowa, and from thence, in 1878, traveled in Missouri, Kansas, Colorado and New Mexico, spending the season in those places, sightseeing, for pleasure and profit, returning in the fall to Vermilion county, Ill.

OLIVER H. CRANE, Hoopeston farmer, was born in Fountain county, Indiana, on the 4th of March, 1841, son of Joel and Elizabeth (Jenkins) Crane. His grandfather, Jonathan Crane and Absalom Jenkins, both served as soldiers in Virginia in the war of 1812. He was reared a farmer. In 1858 he moved to this county, and located in Grant township, on the S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  section 20, town 23, range 12.

JOSEPH SOUTHWICK, Hoopeston farmer, was born at Hoosac Falls, Rensselaer county, New York, on the 1st of August, 1833. He obtained his education at the high school at Union Village, Washington county, New York, ending his studies there in 1854. He spent the year 1855 in Maine, surveying and platting the counties of Kennebec and Androscoggin for county maps, published by Chase & Barker, of New York. In 1856, he was engaged in the same work in Pennsylvania, for Chase and Barker, and surveyed the counties of Lebanon and Dauphin. In 1857 he emigrated to Woodford county, Illinois, and bought a farm of 80 acres five miles north of El Paso. In 1875 he removed to Vermilion county, having bought the W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of section 6, town 23, range 12, four and one-half miles west of Hoopeston, on the L.B. & M. railroad, valued at \$9,600.

RUDOLPHUS R. TAYLOR, Hoopeston, hardware merchant and implement dealer, was born in Peoria, Illinois on the 5th of April, 1842. His parents were James and Sarah (Miller) Taylor. At the age of fourteen he was apprenticed to the tinner's trade, which he learned. In 1859 he went to California, by the way of Panama; lived there two years; worked some at mining, but most of the time at his trade. He enlisted on the 18th of September, 1861, in Co. A, Cal. Cav., Col. A. J. Smith. He passed his term of service doing duty at Fort Churchill, Nevada, and at Camp Douglas, Salt Lake City, and in scouting after Indians. He was mustered out on the 4th of October, 1864, at Camp Douglas and disbanded on the 16th. He at once started for home across the plains, and arrived in Peoria early in December where he entered the hardware trade. In 1874, he formed a co-partnership with James Hulsizer, style of Hulsizer & Taylor, and resumed the hardware business in Princeville. In February, 1875, they removed to Hoopeston and in March, 1877, Mr. Hulsizer sold his interest to Taylor and retired from the firm.

WILLIAM R. CLARK, Hoopeston, hardware merchant, was born in Watertown, New York on the 25th of October, 1832, and is the son of Raymond and Lucy (Gill) Clark. When quite young his parents emigrated to Washington, Wayne county, Indiana, and in 1840 to Adams county, Illinois, settling on a farm near Quincy. He was in Missouri a year, returning to Franklin county, Indiana, in the spring of 1846. From this time till the spring of 1853 he was steamboating on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, most of the time in the capacity of steward. In September, 1857, he returned to Illinois, living nine years in Winona, engaged in the grocery trade. In 1866 he moved to Gilman, Iroquois county, and started a hardware store; in 1870 removed his business to Loda, and in the spring of 1872 to Hoopeston, then an enterprising town just starting.

### SUBDIVISIONS 1904

The first addition to the original plat of the city of Hoopeston as known was subdivided by Joseph Satterthwaite. This addition is from the Lake Erie and Western tracks to Honeywell avenue and east to 4th street.

To the north of Honeywell avenue is what is known as North Hoopeston.

East of North Hoopeston is Moore and Brown's addition.

East of 4th street to 7th street is Honeywell's first addition.

East of 7th street is the Wallace and Catherwood first addition.

South of Penn street to Lincoln and east to 4th street is Robert Casement's addition.

One of the largest additions is the original town of Leeds, west of the Chicago and Eastern Illinois Railroad tracks.

Other important additions are Snell and Taylor's addition, J. S. McFerrer's addition, Lukens' addition, Dale Wallace's addition, G. W. Smith's addition, Hamilton and Smith's addition, Adams and Davison's addition, the Dice addition, Nathan Williams' addition, the Chase addition, the Hanly addition, the W. P. Pierce addition and Claire Smith's addition.



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## **1953 HOOPESTON HOBBY CLUB 1971**

Organized October, 1953, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Roark with eight signing the charter.

Mrs. Roark, club historian, and Glenn Brasel, floor plan chairman, are the only remaining charter members.

Shows sponsored by the club presented treasures of yesterday, today and tomorrow for the pleasure of the public.

The club has contributed to many local organizations.

Other members include: Miss Lillie Southwick, Mr. and Mrs. James A. Anderson (Anderson, treasurer); Mr. and Mrs. John P. Cadle (Mrs. Cadle, vice president); Mrs. Helen Hasselbring, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Crouch, Mr. and Mrs. Burton Livingston, the Rev. and Mrs. Walter Evans (Mrs. Evans, secretary), Mr. and Mrs. Don Bury, Mr. and Mrs. Fremont Crouch, Mr. and Mrs. Myron Norton (Mrs. Norton, president), and Mr. and Mrs. David Cleveland.

The Club's aim is to present programs for pleasure and information.

## **HENNING'S**



**Drive In**  
**An Island of refreshment**

Where the good old-fashioned taste of root beer  
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**HOOPESTON, ILL.**

Dixie Highway  
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# Early Pioneers...

GEORGE STEELY of Hoopeston, farmer, was born in Fountain county, Indiana, on the 6th of September, 1830. He is the son of George and Elizabeth (Emerson) Steely. He lived on a farm in Fountain county until age 24 and was educated at Asbury University, attending from September, 1852, to June, 1854, taking the scientific courses, and nearly completing it. In the fall of the latter year he came here, bought out Thomas McKibben, and settled one and a half miles south of Hoopeston.

JOSEPH M. SATTERTHWAIT was born in Berks county, Pennsylvania, on the 9th of May, 1808, the son of Joshua W. and Ann Satterthwait. He came to Illinois in the fall of 1854, and settled on a farm near Rossville. He was the third postmaster in that place. In the spring of 1862 he removed to Pendleton, Indiana, near Indianapolis, and lived there ten years, when he returned to Illinois and settled at Hoopeston, and resided there until his death on the 21st of September, 1877.

LAFAYETTE GOODWINE, Hoopeston farmer and stock raiser, was born in Warren county, Indiana, on the 27th of February, 1846. His parents were Harrison and Isabel (Charlton) Goodwine. In 1863 he enlisted in Co. K, 11th Ind. Cav. He fought in the decisive battle of Nashville, on the 15th and 16th of December, 1864. In the fall of 1866 he bought 160 acres of his father, who also gave him an equal tract, and he settled on the east half of section 17, town 23, range 11. The value of the farm was \$10,000.

MILES ODLE, Hoopeston farmer, was born in Warren county, Indiana, on the 26th of December, 1841. His parents were Nathan B. and Frances (Watkins) Odle. He was reared on a farm. He volunteered on the 3rd of June, 1861, in Co. A, 15th Ind. Vols., Col. G. D. Wagner, and was mustered into the United States service on the 14th at Lafayette. He was engaged at Cheat Mountains on the 12th of September, and at Greenbrier, Virginia, on the 3rd of October, 1861, both of which were federal successes. He subsequently fought at Shilo, Perryville, Stone River, Chickamauga and Mission Ridge, besides having a share in a large number of smaller actions. In 1871 he moved to Vermilion county, Illinois, and settled in Grant township, four miles east of Hoopeston, on a farm of 120 acres in section 3, which he bought at that time.

JOHN WILLIAMS, Hoopeston farmer, was born in Harrison county, Ohio, on the 29th of September, 1832, the son of NATHAN AND SARAH (HOOPES) WILLIAMS. In the spring of 1854 he came to the county, broke prairie and farmed, and the third year entered three hundred and twenty acres in section 12, in the present limits of Prairie Green township, Iroquois county. He lived there seventeen years. He was assessor of Prairie Green four or five years in succession. On the 1st of January, 1864, he froze his right foot while feeding stock, and all the toes had to be amputated. In April, 1873, he moved one and a half miles south of Hoopeston.

THOMAS WILLIAMS, Hoopeston farmer and stock raiser, was born in Harrison county, Ohio, on the 29th of November, 1828, the son of NATHAN AND SARAH (HOOPES) WILLIAMS. In 1847 he went to Sandusky Plains, Marion county, Ohio, where he lived six or seven years, working by the month for his uncle, THOMAS HOOPES, tending sheep. In the fall of 1853 he came to this county, wintered four hundred sheep, and the next spring added four hundred more; rented a farm of his uncle Hoopes, giving him a share of all his profit. He held the offices of highway commissioner and trustee of schools in Grant township.

JOHN S. POWELL, Hoopeston druggist, was born in New York city on the 23rd of February, 1840, the son of Edward and Harriet (Everett) Powell. At the age of twelve he was indentured to Dr. William G. Wood, of Harlem, in the drug business, and placed under the supervision of the doctor's brother, James Wood, a thorough pharmacist. He served an apprenticeship of five years during which time he was required daily to learn a prescribed task and undergo examination by the doctor. He became by this means a good Latin scholar. When seventeen he went into some of the leading drug stores in the city, where he finished his professional education. In 1860 he immigrated to Illinois, and on the 14th of April, 1861, volunteered in Co. A, 12th Ill. Inf., Col. McArthur, for three months. At the battle of Champion Hills, on the 16th of May, 1863, he fell into the hands of the enemy, but was released on parole and reported in person to Gen. Grant, and requested to remain with the army till the fall of the city. The general acceded to his request, and put him on duty as hospital steward in Gen. Logan's division hospital. After the capture of Vicksburg he was ordered to report to Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis, as a paroled prisoner of war, where he remained until exchanged; then returning to that city he was placed on detached service in the office of the medical director of the 17th Army Corps. Availing himself of the department library at command, he resumed and diligently pursued his studies. He appeared before the board of medical examiners, consisting of surgeons Patterson, Wilson and Bouschnee, and passed a successful examination, and in January, 1865, was commissioned assistant surgeon of the 52nd U.S. Col. Vols. He was given charge of a ward in U.S. hospital No. 3, at Vicksburg, and also a smallpox hospital. He remained there on duty till he was mustered out of the service, in May, 1866. He returned to Illinois and engaged in traveling in the wholesale drug business. On the 2nd of August, 1871, he stopped in Hoopeston, and in the following winter purchased the store and stock of drugs belonging to Frank Hoffman.

ENOCH ROSS, Hoopeston farmer, was born in Stark county, Ohio, on the 27th of December, 1840, son of Isaac N. and Nancy (Hewitt) Ross. His parents were native Pennsylvanians, and his ancestors on his mother's side were Irish. His father was the owner of a large grist mill in Waynesburg, and he raised his son a miller. He followed this trade until his removal to Illinois. On the 17th of July, 1863, he joined the "Ohio National Guard" for five years, and remained a member of that body until the 1st of May, 1866, when he was honorably discharged. In the spring of 1868 he removed with his family to Illinois, and located in Fountain Creek township, on land belonging to his father. He lived there four years, and then bought 160 acres in Grant township of H. W. Beckwith, of Danville.

JOSEPH DALLSTREAM, Hoopeston merchant, was born in Wenersborg, Sweden, on the 2nd of April, 1852, son of John and Elizabeth (Anderson) Dallstream. He received a fair education in the public schools of the country, and spent one term in Uppsala College. At sixteen he was apprenticed to the shoemaker's trade. In 1871 he came to America, and settled in Champaign. He lived there one year, and afterward a few months in Rantoul, finally settling in Hoopeston in the fall of 1872. In 1876 he opened a general boot and shoe store in connection with his manufacturing.

WATTS FINLEY, Hoopeston farmer, was born in Dearborn county, Indiana, on the 4th of November, 1833. He is the son of David and Nancy (Miller) Finley. His parents removed the same year to this county and settled near Catlin. In the spring of 1855, he, in company with his brother Miller and his sister Nancy (now Mrs. Samuel Frazier, of Danville), settled on a farm of 200 acres, in sections 24 and 25, town 23, range 12. He made stock-raising his principal business. He was one of the "substantial and sterling citizens of Grant township, and was held in universal esteem." Finley owned 740 acres of land, worth \$26,000.



HENRY H. DYER, Hoopeston attorney, was born in Rutland county, Vermont, on April 9, 1831, son of Daniel and Phila B. (Beverstock) Dyer. When seven years old, his parents removed to Richland county, Ohio. He was educated at Mount Hesper Seminary, Morrow county, and taught school a number of terms. In 1853 he obtained a position in the Bank of Mansfield, a bank of issue, as teller and bookkeeper. In 1855, he settled in Calloway county, Missouri where, in company with his father, he bought a farm of 320 acres, whereon he built a combined steam saw, grist and woolen mill. In 1858 this was fired and burned at the instigation of the slaveholding community, to punish Mr. D. for his anti-slavery views. In 1860 he removed to Denver City and engaged in the commission business; in 1861 he went to Nevada City, and for two years was mining and running a quartz mill. In 1863 he moved to Canon City and bought three ranches; followed farming and trading; was elected justice of the peace and held the office one year. In the fall of 1864 he went to Denver and embarked in the auction and commission business, taking a partner, under the firm name of Clark and Dyer. In the spring of 1867 he went to Chicago, engaging in the hardware trade and the manufacture of tinware; in 1870 moved to Greenup, Cumberland county, Illinois, and went into the real estate and contract business. In January, 1875 he settled in Hoopeston and began the study of the law privately. He began to practice in July of 1875. In January, 1877, he was admitted to the bar at Springfield. He was a nephew of Hon. Charles V. Dyer, of Chicago, a noted anti-slavery lecturer, who was formerly judge under treaty with Great Britain for the suppression of the African slave-trade, by appointment of President Lincoln.

JONATHAN BEDELL, first Hoopeston merchant, was born in Cazenovia, Madison county, New York, on the 29th of October, 1827. At the age of fifteen he was apprenticed to the tanner and currier's trade. In 1851 he emigrated to Twin Rivers, Manitowoc county, Wisconsin and learned the carpenter's trade. He was employed by the Wisconsin Leather Company four years in tanning leather. In April, 1855, he moved to Illinois and entered the last piece of land in Vermilion (now Ford) county, which was entered while the register's office was at Danville. He lived on his farm four or five years; moved into Loda and lived there until 1871, when he settled in Hoopeston and opened the first store in the place. He was first assistant postmaster in the new town, opened the first mail that was received, and mailed the first matter that was sent away. He also made the first payment of cash on lots which were sold (lots 16 and 69) which he occupied on Main street. He was the first master of Star Lodge No. 709, AF & AM, of Hoopeston. On January 1, 1875, he sold his store to his son and the business has since been continued under the firm name of David Bedell & Co.

DALE WALLACE, Hoopeston publisher, was born in LaPorte, Indiana, on November 5, 1849. His parents were John Porter and Lydia Ann (Winchell) Wallace. In 1855 his parents moved to West Union, Fayette county, Iowa, and the subject of this sketch was reared and educated there. He began the printer's trade in 1863 in the office of the "Fayette County Pioneer," a violent copperhead sheet which was published at West Union. This was mobbed the same year by a lot of returned soldiers, while he was yet working in the office. He next went to Marion, Linn county, and obtained a place in the office of the "Marion Register", remaining there one year. In 1865 he entered Battles Commercial College and learned telegraphy, graduating in four months. He next went to work on the Cedar Falls "Gazette", and was foreman in that office two years; then went to Eldora, Hardin county, and was foreman of the "Ledger" one or two years. From thence he went to California and Oregon and remained two years working at his trade in San Francisco, Sacramento, Portland, Salt Lake and Virginia Cities. When a poor boy he conceived a passion for travel, and saved his money carefully during the long years of close application to his trade to gratify it. He visited every state in the Union, except Maine and Texas, and traveled in Montana, Idaho, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. In 1871 he returned from the Pacific coast to Eldora. A large eight-column newspaper, owned by stockholders, was being published in that place, and he was

engaged to manage it, which he did three months. Dictation not proving agreeable to him, he gave up his position and came to Hoopeston, and in company with G. W. Seavey, established the "Chronicle", on the 1st of January, 1872.

JOSEPH M. SATTERTHWAIT was another of the newcomers of 1854. He settled on a farm near Rossville in Vermilion County. He was the third postmaster of Rossville.

In 1862 he moved into Indiana and settled near Indianapolis, where he remained for ten years when he returned to Illinois and settled at Hoopeston, where he lived up to the time of his death on September 21, 1877. Satterthwait left four daughters, all of whom were settled in homes of their own. He lived a strict member of the Society of Friends.

JOHN LEEMON came to this county in 1857, locating on a 444 acre farm of unimproved land near Mr. Hoopes in the northern part of Vermilion County. He lived here alone, improving his farm and boarding with Mr. Hoopes.

GURDON S. HUBBARD was agent for the American Fur Company, succeeding Antonin Des Champs in this territory in 1824. Antonin Des Champs had had charge of the interests of the company in the trade of the company for about forty years in the territory between the Illinois and Wabash rivers. This takes the record of trade in this section back to about 1785, or 35 years before the coming of the white settler to the location of Vermilion County. Des Champs was in charge of the territory until five years after small settlements had been made at the salt works, at Brook's Point, at Butler's Point and along the Little Vermilion.

When Hubbard took charge of this territory, he abandoned the posts on the Illinois, and no longer carried the trade by water, but introduced pack-horses. The trail from Chicago to the salt works which he established was called Hubbard "Trace", and was followed for many years as the most direct road from Chicago to Vincennes, Indiana. This Hubbard Trace was the foundations of one of the most direct railroads in the state connecting Chicago and the Ohio River.

In 1827 Gurdon S. Hubbard abandoned the posts on the Embarrass and Little Wabash, and put up the first frame building ever constructed in Vermilion county for a storehouse, which became the headquarters for the Indian trade in this part of the country and later became Danville.

ABNER WARNER came to Vermilion County in 1850 and herded cattle on the prairies. These he drove across the country to Philadelphia markets. Later he located in Vermilion County and he died in Rossville in 1888. The two children of this family were well known, particularly the elder brother, Charles W. Warner. Charles Warner went with his parents from his birthplace to near Crawfordsville, Indiana, and went to school there. He then went into a printing office in Rossville, after which he taught school for a while. When he had finished his last school he went into the office of the Hoopeston Chronicle, which at that time was owned by Dale Wallace. There he remained for three years. Warner bought the Hoopeston Chronicle in 1882, since which time he has been editor and owner of the paper. He was appointed, or rather elected, because of the number of candidates, postmaster of Hoopeston in 1889.

CHARLES WOOLVERTON, Hoopeston farmer and carpenter, was born near Perryville, Vermilion county, Indiana, on the 17th of August, 1837, and is a son of Abel and Anna (English) Woolverton, one of Grant Township's first pioneer settlers. In 1850, his father entered 160 acres of land in Vermilion county, Illinois, being the N.E. ¼ section 18, town 23, range 11. He soon after bought 160 acres more, and finally augmented the area to 400. His family came and occupied the land in 1851. The subject of this sketch learned the carpenter's trade before and during the war. He enlisted at Bloomington on the 18th of June, 1862, for three months, in Co. H, 70th Ill. Vols., Col. O. H. Reeves.



# Scrap Metal Dealer and His Legend!

Soon after the turn of the century (1905), Ruby Yonkelowitz, 20 years old, arrived in Hoopeston from a small Lithuanian village to work for his uncle, David Yonkelowitz.

After his uncle returned to Chicago, Yonkelowitz continued to operate and develop the small scrap metal business which they had started.

For the next 51 years, Ruby contributed much to Hoopeston and it was written that he always "held Hoopeston dear to his heart".

In 1928, his feeling toward his hometown was shown when he donated the second town clock to the city as a symbol of his gratitude and affection for Hoopeston.

Ruby and his wife, Ida, were honored at a dinner given by the city. Mrs. Yonkelowitz, who still resides here in 1971, their daughter, Annette, and son Martin Young, who has followed his father by operating the business, remember the bouquet of roses which was presented to them on that evening in 1928.

Mr. Yonkelowitz was active in the Chamber of Commerce, Lions Club as a charter member, Star Lodge 709, AF and AM, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite Valley of Danville, Ansar Temple of Shrine at Springfield; the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and he served as a board member of the City National Bank for 20 years and as a director of Citizen's Savings and Loan Assn. for a number of years.



Ruby Yonkelowitz, shown here in the center atop the town clock building he rebuilt in 1928 and a few days prior to the time he donated the new town clock to the City of Hoopeston. The men with him are unidentified, but were apparently members of the construction crew which installed the clock.



This view looking northeast from the 100 block of East Main Street shows the original town clock building which was destroyed by fire in 1905. It was rebuilt, but burned again in 1905, rebuilt a second time and burned a third time in 1947, never to be rebuilt again.

Hoopeston's first town clock was destroyed by fire in 1905, the same year Mr. Yonkelowitz arrived in town. It was rebuilt, but burned again in 1925 (January 20).

Ruby had the building rebuilt in 1928 and donated a new town clock to the city at a cost of \$5,000.

That clock remained as an attention-getter from that time until 1947 (Easter Sunday Morning) when it was destroyed again and never rebuilt.

A motel and a department store now occupy the area where Hoopeston's residents for 42 years synchronized their watches.

Perhaps one of the finest compliments ever was published in the Hoopeston Chronicle-Herald during the scrap drives of World War II when a person, in a letter to the editor, wrote: "For the past week or so we have been hauling scrap to the scrapyards in Hoopeston. We have sat in line with our truck and watched boys with coaster wagons loaded with iron get the same courtesy and consideration as a man with a five-ton load."



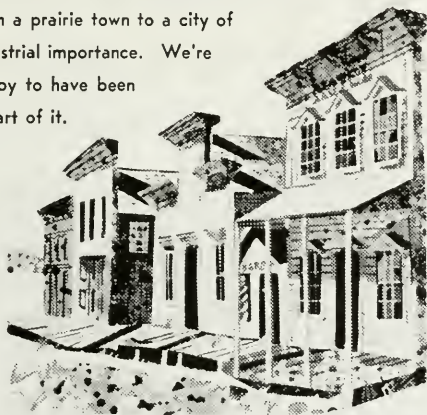
MR. AND MRS. RUBY YONKELOWITZ

Mr. Yonkelowitz was described as "having a deep understanding of human nature, and his motto for life was just as he lived, 'Always Make Good With a Promise.'"



## **still growing!....**

The years have seen Hoopeston grow and thrive,  
from a prairie town to a city of  
industrial importance. We're  
happy to have been  
a part of it.



Compliments of:

**LAWRENCE PARR BIRCH**  
CITY ENGINEER

*We Salute*

**HOOPESTON**



Trust the men who know  
your car inside-out to  
handle gas-ups, check-  
ups in a jiffy, to help  
speed you on your way.  
You'll like our style!

**Visitors Welcome!**  
**HERMAN'S STANDARD**  
**SERVICE STATION**

Owned & Operated by Cliff Baldwin

"Where Routes 1 & 9 meet . . ."

## ***Congratulations!***

*You've come*

*a long way,*

*Hoopeston.*



Compliments of:

**RANKIN STATE BANK**

Rankin, Illinois

Member F. D. I. C.



*The way it used to be-----*

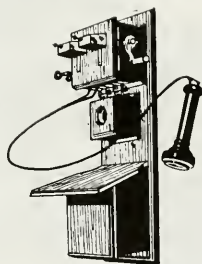
**IS NOT LIKE IT IS NOW!!!**

When O. P. Chamberlin first opened "Chamberlin's Telephone Exchange on the second floor of the Montgomery-Ward Building, a total of 28 subscribers were listed. That was 1895. Two years later, 108 subscribers were listed, 40 miles of wire served the community and residents could call anytime day or night. That was considered as a most important convenience for a growing Hoopeston.



The early photo of the "Hello Girls" was taken soon after the turn of the century and no doubt brings back many pleasant memories. On the left is Mrs. E. J. Boorde, Mabel Boorde Harris and E. J. Boorde. In the wagon are Olive Newburn Boughton, Belle Hussey Boburn, Francis Bradley, Rosslyn Boorde, Alice Potter Scott, Lucy Potter Yates, Mary Fickle and the boy is a cousin of Rosslyn Boorde. Lineman Albert Sims is at right.

But things are different now. The old switchboards are gone and everything is automatic dialing. In a few seconds, a subscriber may dial any number in the United States of America.



Little thought is given to the vast new technical knowledge employed in today's communications. This fact is accepted as a manner of course.

As efficient and economical as is today's dialing, it is only representative of the things to come. In the future, subscribers may expect even greater changes and improvements in telephone service.

Telephoning has come a long way from the days of the "Number, please!" Our pledge is to continue serving Hoopeston with the latest and the best. We're here to serve you . . . always.



**EASTERN ILLINOIS TELEPHONE CORP.**  
**HOOPESTON, ILLINOIS**



# Happy 100th Anniversary to a Growing HOOPESTON

Banking has been a part of Hoopeston for 99 great years. We'll strive to merit confidence for an even brighter future.



McFerren-Chamberlain  
FIRST NATIONAL BANK  
8-1-1872 to 1931

Hoopeston National Bank  
6-1-1909 to 1931

City National Bank  
8-1-1933  
And STILL GROWING!



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*The*



# CITY NATIONAL BANK



*Of Hoopeston*

MEMBER OF **FDIC** FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION



# "BUILDERS"

## OF HOOPESTON

Grandpa William Silver was the early stone mason contractor of Hoopeston before the turn of the century. Hardly a building was erected in which he did not play a part. An early history of Hoopeston, printed in 1897, by William Arter, describes Grandpa Silver's activities as follows:

"Mr. Silver's special line of work is in brick and stone masonry, and the money value of his contracts in Hoopeston probably exceeds that of any other contractor in the city. There is no contract too small or too large for Mr. Silver.

"In addition to the many fine brick blocks and residences in this city erected under his contracts, he has also done much masonry for the bridges of the north end of the county.

"Against several competitors coming from Chicago, Danville and Lafayette, Mr. Silver secured the contract on his own plan, for the new city building now in process of erection on the corner of Market and Davis (Seminary) streets in this city."

Today we carry on Grandpa's traditions of honest work faithfully performed in the best workman-like manner. Grandpa would have been amazed indeed, were he alive today to see how our work is carried on. Our trucks, cranes, bulldozers, mixing plant, and other related equipment were undreamed of before the turn of the century. All this modern machinery, however, would be worthless without a dedicated crew of men and women who work hard to please our many customers.

Four generations of Silvers have actually "built" Hoopeston and the fifth generation is on the way.

We are most proud of the fact that we not only have built many buildings in Hoopeston, but have contributed of our time and money to the civic and religious growth of our town. All of our people are interested in Hoopeston because not only do we make our living here, but this is our home and we try to do everything to make it a better place to enjoy life.

One of Grandpa's early advertisements concluded "Correspondence and interview concerning work is solicited." We don't know how to state it any better.



WILLIAM SILVER



HARRY C. SILVER



WILLIAM R. SILVER



HARRY J. SILVER

# SILVER BROS. INC.

IN THE WONDERFUL TOWN OF HOOPESTON



# The Gay Nineties

Little is known of the Hoopeston Fire Department before 1903. Horse drawn equipment was used and anyone with a good team of horses automatically was a member of the fire department. Mr. Earl Tyler, the present Fire Chief, states that his father was on the department. Mr. Tyler owned a fine team of black horses and if the steam fire siren blew while he was hauling coal or the 'ike, he had to have a good grip on the reins because the team would take off for the station. Records from 1903 indicate that Hoopeston has always been blessed with the best in men and equipment. The first motorized equipment appeared about 1906. Some of the early volunteers were E. N. Dyer, John Bell, Archie Munn, Cliff Merritt, Frank Kimberlin, Stark Musson, Frank Cook, C. E. Smith, E. Norton, Ralph Park, John Mann, Jr., Frank Strayer. The present day Fire Department is housed in two stations and the fifteen man force have for their use three pumper trucks and one rescue truck. The force is headed by Earl Tyler.

Amusements in the 90's were limited to picnics, fourth of July outings and band concerts and horse races at the fairgrounds. Entertainment was planned for the children such as sack races, pony rides, jumping contests, tug of war. The Hoopeston Fairgrounds had many horse races on its splendid half-mile track. With the passing of the Hoopeston Fair Association J. S. McFerren gave the thirty acres which comprised the Hoopeston Fairgrounds to the city of Hoopeston to be used as a city park, the only proviso being that it was not to be used for purposes of profit.

In 1904 the Hoopeston Chautauqua built the pavilion in McFerren Park. This huge building could seat more than 2,000 persons. The Hoopeston Chautauqua Association held a ten-day tenting in McFerren Park, usually in the latter part of July and into the first part of August. Tents were rented including floors and lights by visitors to the affair. The programs featured big name speakers and stage shows.

In 1895 John D. Miller formed a musical group known as "Miller's Concert Band." For over eleven years until his death in 1906, Miller's Concert Band performed on the Tuesday night band concerts held in the downtown section of Hoopeston and whenever a musical group was needed. Miller also directed the Presbyterian Church Choir for over five years.

## Labor Conditions, 1904

Labor conditions in Hoopeston have been made almost perfect by the decree forbidding saloons so that this ordinance operates not only in allaying strikes but in attaining the GREATEST POSSIBLE AMOUNT OF WORK OUT OF A GIVEN NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES.

To wit: Hoopeston holds two world's records as regards the output of its products: The American Can Company's plant turns out more cans than any institution of its kind in the world--in one day reaching the maximum of 600,000. The average is a half a million daily.

It is not necessary to prove that this record could not have been attained in another city. Not to go too deeply into the sociological question of Hoopeston's environment, it is enough to say that Hoopeston DID IT, did it again and is to-day in consequence the tin can champion of the world.

Again the Sprague Canning Machinery Manufacturing Company can and does make more machinery used for canning corn than any factory in the world. It is safe to say that 75 per cent of the argument which influenced the location of these two industries, of all the others, was drawn from the invincible logic of "no liquor sold on the premises."

Feb. 22, 1872: Buffalo Bill was in town coming from Prairie Green and he was given a new shirt by one of the local merchants. The Lafayette & Bloomington Railroad is only 3 miles west of town on this date.

May 30, 1872, work commences on Floral Hill Cemetery with the setting of stakes for boundaries. Also a note in the paper that the July 4, 1872 celebration was to commence at daybreak.

## Great Opportunities

Hoopeston was incorporated as a city only 27 years ago. Business lots then sold at \$125 and \$150. Business lots are today worth \$4000 and upwards. Lately building has been going forward at the rate of two hundred residences each year. Men have come here with little or no capital, purchased acre property, and are now making small fortunes from their subdivisions. And there are still ground floor propositions of this kind to be had for the far-seeing ones who are willing to come and investigate.

Hoopeston's geographical situation, both as regards its proximity to Chicago and the surrounding agriculture country, is all important. It has two trunk lines that put one another at right angles, thus giving four outlets, north and south and east and west. The Chicago and Eastern Illinois Railroad touches Hoopeston exactly ninety-nine miles south of Chicago, and seventy miles north of Terre Haute, Ind. The longitudinal line is the Lake Erie and Western, which gives an outlet to the east and west. The C. & E. I. was built in 1871 and the L. E. & W. the following year. Hoopeston is the center of a rich agriculture country: it lies well within the corn belt, and the main industries are of a nature that require a good agriculture country to promote them. Hoopeston is famous the world over for its sugar corn. Several thousand acres in the immediate vicinity of Hoopeston are corn producing "feeders" for the two canning factories. The Illinois Canning Company and the Hoopeston Canning Company own some four thousand acres. The presence of these two factories is a direct benefit to every farmer adjacent to Hoopeston.

## Largest Industries(1904)

Hoopeston's largest industries are the American Can Company and the Sprague Canning Machinery Manufacturing Company, mentioned before as holding the world's records in their respective lines. In addition there are the Hoopeston Horse Nail Company, two immense elevators and several mills and smaller industries. Altogether Hoopeston's tin bucket brigade is fully twelve hundred and fifty strong.

Hoopeston's wage bill foots up the comfortable sum of \$550,000 annually, an average of \$46,000 per month, \$10,500 per week, or \$1,700 per day. The value of Hoopeston's manufactured products is four million dollars annually. In other words each laboring man working in Hoopeston is able to produce nearly eight times the value of his own wages.

The destination of Hoopeston's manufactured products is limited only by the natural boundaries of the world. Wherever American civilization is Hoopeston's corn goes, wherever American civilization is Hoopeston's canning machinery goes: wherever American civilization is there are housewives opening tin cans of Hoopeston make and preparing dishes of sugar corn of Hoopeston manufacture.

The above is a roughly outlined sketch of the city of Hoopeston as it may be viewed any day in the year by any stranger who takes the trouble to come to Hoopeston to investigate. It is enough, however, to arouse the curiosity of the investor and manufacturer.

## First Large Business

The first business enterprise of any magnitude to be established in Hoopeston was the Canning Plant by S. S. McCall in the year 1875 two years before Hoopeston was incorporated. Stephen S. McCall was a New York man and came west on a prospecting trip for a site on which to locate a canning factory. Arriving in Hoopeston he became very enthused over the prospect for the establishment of such a factory in this city. An old building that had been used as headquarters for the Snell, Taylor, and Mix Construction Company was taken over and converted into a factory. In 1878 this business venture was incorporated under the name of the Illinois Canning Company.



# Industry Comes to the Prairie City

It was 93 years ago that Stephen S. McCall of Oneida County, New York, came to Vermilion County, Illinois with his dream of establishing a sweet corn canning empire in the Mid-West.

McCall had come West with the thought in mind of finding a place where the sweet corn would grow in sufficient quantities to warrant establishment of a sweet corn factory.

McCall was attracted to Grant Township and Hoopeston, where just seven years earlier, the town of Hoopeston had sprung from the prairie.

He was so impressed with its possibilities that he started his first sweet corn factory here in 1878. This marked the beginning of the company that was later to be known as The Illinois Canning Co. and now, the Joan of Arc Co.

Twelve years later, William Moore and James Cunningham acquired the canning firm (1890) and operated it until 1910 when Cunningham was killed in an auto accident in Montana. At that time, it was re-organized as a publicly-held corporation and Moore served as president until he died in 1921.

In 1882, J. S. McFerren, A. T. Catherwood and A. H. Trego, other early comers to the growing community, joined to form the Hoopeston Canning Co. as a corporation and the young city had two sweet corn canning industries. Buildings were erected for that firm in 1886.

Several years later that firm was to be known as Stokely-Van Camp Co., Inc., with headquarters in Indianapolis.

FMC Corp. as we know it today, was established in 1885 by Daniel Trench, a backer of promising inventions, who provided the support for a corn cutter invented by Welcome Sprague. Purpose of the business here was to handle canning machinery and supplies. Sprague and Trench got together in 1892 and changed the firm to the Sprague Manufacturing Co. and in 1904 was named the Sprague Canning Machinery Company.

The company was later known as Sprague-Sells after William H. Sells invented a field corn husker using iron rollers in New York.

It has since been known as Food Machinery Corp. and FMC Corp.

Union Can Company opened at 324 W. Main on March 23, 1894 and became a part of American Can Co. to manufacture cans and supply cannery.

American Can has continued to be a key industry in Hoopeston through its 77 year history.

Other industries in 1971 include R. A. Scranton Industries which makes component parts for organs and is preparing space in which to build complete organ units, including consoles.

Woodward-Schumacher Electric Corp., formerly Crest Transformer Corp. is in the electronics field, making transformers, battery chargers and other electric products.

John Deere Vermilion Malleable Iron Works, which is numbered among "key" industries, is in the business of making parts for Deere and Co. in its foundry in northwest Hoopeston. The Hoopeston Malleable was founded in 1907, but went out of business in 1908 and lay idle until 1912 when it was re-opened by its present owners.

Joseph A. Park, who participated in the first corn pack ever in Hoopeston, described that packing operation in 1878. Here is his description:



AMERICAN CAN COMPANY



HOOPESTON CANNING CO.



JOHN DEERE MALLEABLE IRON WORKS



"At harvest time, the sweet corn was gathered in bushel baskets, dumped very carefully in to the wagons and hauled from field to factory. At the cannery, the ears were husked by hand and the company issued tokens for each bushel handled by workers. Tokens were redeemed weekly, but at the same time, were accepted by the town's merchants for food and other merchandise in lieu of cash.

After hand-husking, hand-cutting and pre-heating operations, the corn was poured into pans and the handmade cans were filled by hand-spooning, then weighed, carefully wiped clean and the lids applied. Men with soldering irons completed the sealing operations and the cans were hoisted into the cooker. After removal from the cooker, the cans were dumped on a cooling floor and left overnight. Next morning, each can was tested by striking one end on the floor. If the can did not bulge, it went to the labeling department, otherwise thrown out."

Most of the hand operations Park described are now done by automatic canning machinery, not only making the work at factories more pleasant, but prices lower at the stores. Canning has come a long way and has been greatly responsible for Hoopeston's growth.



Corn pickers harvesting sweet corn near Hoopeston, 1967.



SPRAGUE CANNING MACHINERY CO.



ILLINOIS CANNING CO.



*Best Wishes from*

## The Merry Circle Club

Organized July, 1910 in the Plainview neighborhood southwest of Hoopeston.

Mrs. James (Fannie) Tilton, realizing the need of social life for farm women, held the first meeting in her home with 8 ladies present. OBJECT: To promote talent and sociability.

Mrs. Date (Mary Tilton) Houmes was first secretary and is the only living charter member. Merry Circle Club is still active in its 61st year.

PRESENT OFFICERS ARE: Susie Morts, president; Elva Peterson, vice president; Helen Bennett, secretary; Ann Clouse, treasurer; Mildred Cadle, reporter.

Meetings held every third  
Thursday of each month.

*May we say:*

## Happy Centennial!

*to Hoopeston*



● 24-HOUR AMBULANCE SERVICE ●

## CHRISMAN FUNERAL HOME

508 N. CHICAGO

ROSSVILLE, ILL.

TEL. 748-6555

*Happy Centennial to*

## The "Holy City"

These ARE happy  
times. . . a time  
to join in glad  
celebrating. . . .  
a SPECIAL time  
for WORSHIP.



Growth is HIS reward from mankind. Since we were organized in 1873, we've worked for a Spiritual City.

## FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

502 E. MAIN  
HOOPESTON, ILL.

*There have been many, but now:*

## Another Milestone!

Hoopeston's Fighting  
men have served her  
well through many  
international conflicts.

On this, our 100th year,  
let us "re-group" and  
strive for better things  
as a pledge to those  
who died.



## Buddy Egnew Post 4826

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS  
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Our 75th Year

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**MIDWEST SUPPLY COMPANY**



The Hoopeston Area Centennial Corporation, Inc.  
of Hoopeston, Illinois

PROUDLY PRESENTS

# “HOOPESTON’S 100TH YEAR”

(1871-1971)

DIRECTOR—Kevin McCarthy; a John B. Rogers Co. Production.

GLENN BRASEL FIELD, HOOPESTON HIGH SCHOOL

Pre-Show, 8 p.m.

Performance, 9 p.m.

July 20-24, 1971

CASTING by Diane Summers.

PROPERTIES by Karyl Gammon and the Sigma Alpha Sorority.

SET CONSTRUCTION by Harry Silver and Kenny Dazey.

WARDROBE SUPERVISION, Anita Clements and Jani Clements

HISTORICAL DATA by Jack Fisher.

Hoopeston's 100th Year is based on historical outline. Chronology of incidents, costuming and characters may have been changed to meet staging requirements. Dialogue situations and characters have been created to augment historical data and to increase dramatic effect of the production.

All rights are reserved and no portion of this script may be used without the consent of the writer, producer, director and the John B. Rogers Co.

THE PROLOGUE: “Happy Birthday” (Presentation of Queen and Court)

OVERTURE: “Space Odessey 2001”

EPISODE ONE: Reflections of the Indian!

Scene One: Indian Speaks

Scene Two: Ceremonial War Dance

EPISODE TWO: “Hoopeston Heritage”

Scene One: Thomas Hoopes Speaks

Scene Two: Barn-Raising

Scene Three: Surveying

Scene Four: Racing at Park

EPISODE THREE: “Heritage of Our Faith”

Scene One: The Holy City

Scene Two: The First Service

Scene Three: The Human Cross

EPISODE FOUR: “Early School Days”

Scene One: First School

School Two: Modern Schools

EPISODE FIVE: “Antebellum Years”

Scene One: Hoopeston Hospitality

Scene Two: Strife Over the “Word”

Scene Three: Civil War

Scene Four: Gettysburg Address

EPISODE SIX: “The Good Old Days”

Scene One: The Gay Nineties

Scene Two: Barbershop Quartet

Scene Three: July 4th Celebration

Scene Four: Beauty Contest of '91

Scene Five: The Chase

EPISODE SEVEN: “The 20th Century, Flicks, Flappers and Flivvers”

Scene One: Going to War

Scene Two: World War I Battle

Scene Three: Armistice Day

Scene Four: Roaring 20's

Scene Five: The Charleston

EPISODE EIGHT: “The Depression”

Scene One: The WPA

Scene Two: Pearl Harbor

Scene Three: Hitler and World War II

EPISODE NINE: “Post Rock to Moon Rock”

Scene One: The Future

EPILOGUE: “A Salute to Hoopeston”

Scene One: Presentation of Cast

Scene Two: I Am an American

Scene Three: “Star Spangled Banner”



# “Hoopeston’s 100th Year” Cast Members

## PROLOGUE

**GIRL SCOUTS AND BROWNIES:** Le Ann Peterson, Barbara Fouse, Becky Carter, Kim Blalock, Kristine Knuth, Maralee Siville, Kathy Ritter, Darlene Knapp, Roxanna Harviston, Kim Baker, Cathy Baum, Carolgene Baum, Teri Cox, Kim Snively, Cindy Aleshire, Debbie Cain.

**BOY SCOUTS AND CUB SCOUTS:** Mark Holt, Scott Holt, Brent Clements, Bob Witty, Curtis Page, Bryan Clements, Herbie Shoufler, Brian Ritter, Jerry Matthews, Craig Page.

**MAJORETTES:** Tammy Clements, Trudy Thompson, Stephanie Whiteman, Diane Horridge, Lisa Bitto, Lynn Ferdinand, Jo Ellen Ferdinand, Barbara Bretts, Cheryl Wallace, Stephanie Matthews, Kim Shore, Angela Hodge, Sandy Crabtree, Cheryl Horridge.

**HORSEBACK RIDERS:** Ray Eells, Ralph Bertram, Jack Schneck, Don Roy, Roger Knapp, Layden girls, Bob Lust, K.L. Cain.

**COLOR GUARDS:** Legion - Ron Schwartz, Earl “Dusty” Cowan, Glenn Thompson, Rick Tovey, Don Miles, Ron Lewis, Keith Snively, Chuck Whiteman. VFW - Jerry Eells, Jerry Morgeson, Ernie Trent, Jim Goodrum, Ron Goodrum, Butch Moore, Les Roberts, Lloyd Brown, Mike Lawson.

## EPISODE NO. 1 — INDIANS

**INDIAN DANCERS:** Shelly Ault, Cathy Bird, Connie Bird, Nancy Brougher, Julie Irvin, Leigh Johnson, Linda Johnson, Sandy Garrison, Princess, Sandi Garner, Jeannie Law, Becky Milton, April Meador, Linda Pocialik, Mary Kay Pocialik, Kathy Rigbsy, Carla Peterson, Kathy Sheehan, Toni Sinclair, Julie York, Teri York, Scott Peterson.

**INDIAN BRAVES:** Scott Peterson, Jeff Kriebs, Vaughn Cox, Kenneth Burt, Dennis Kriebs, Don Underwood, Paul Peterson, Jim Gummere, Keith Burt, Mike Forshier.

**INDIAN SQUAWS:** Judy Davis, Mary McIntyre, Marianne Boyer.

**INDIAN CHILDREN:** Mike Boyer, Lori Blackwell, David Thorn, Becky Clayburn.

## EPISODE NO. 2 — HOOPESTON'S HERITAGE

**PIONEER PEOPLE:** George Blalock, Judy Blalock, Sandra Dee Blalock, Laura Lee Blalock, Kim Blalock, Raymond Steele, Bernice Steele, Jim Richards, Jeanne Richards, Chris Richards, Kelly Richards, Byron Yanders, Carol Yanders, Rusty Yanders, Dale-lee Yanders, Roy Allison, Blanche Allison, Odell Crabtree, Delores Crabtree, Tim Crabtree, Della Crabtree, Cliff Crabtree, Bus Reed, John Reed, Charles Johnson, Jeanne Johnson, Jack Johnson, Doris Silver, Kathie Silver, Joe Coon, Cheri Coon, Robyn Coon, Phyllis Coon, Karen Carpenter, Alvin Riffel, Norma Riffel, Betty Summers, Judy Summers, Dianne Summers, Marjorie Siville, Maralee Siville, Steve Unger, Sue Unger, Marilyn Owen, Sharon Owen, Steve Owen, Wilma Ritter, Kathy Ritter, Vickie Dunavan, Marta Dunavan, Phiama Morgan, Quanee Morgan, Elmer Hix, Mabel Hix, Beverly Jerome, Jack Silver, Mona Silver, Barb Shuler, Evelyn Cauble, Sarge York, Leona York, Roy Hoaks, Elsie Forshier, Frances Boose, Karen Weger, Rosa Potts, Ada Gooden, Ann Weber, Marita Webb, Marge Carter, Venetia Lane, Roberta Wood, Betty Stone, Naomi Alkire, Linda Weaks, Larry Longfellow, George Lopez, Ed Watson, Walter Evans, Lillie McBride, Charlotte Peterson, Marie German.

## EPISODE NO. 3 — HERITAGE OF OUR FAITH — CHURCH PEOPLE

**CHURCH PEOPLE:** Rev. Walter Evans, Wilma Ritter, Kathy Ritter, Jack Silver, Mona Silver, Mark Silver, Marlin Silver, Marty Silver, Monte Silver, Norma Riffel, Doris Silver, Kathie Silver, Mickie Brooks, Carla Peterson, Mickie Brooks, Vickie Dunavan, Roberta Wood, Venetia Lane, Marita Webb, Odell Crabtree, Delores Crabtree, Della Crabtree, Tim Crabtree, Cliff Crabtree, Phronie Harris, Esther Brewington, Marjorie Siville, Maralee Siville, Karen Weger, Juanita Peterson, Raymond Steele, Bernice Steele, Lillie McBride, Cheri Coon, Joe Coon, Jim Richards, Jeannie Richards, Chris Richards, George Blalock, Judy Blalock, Kim Blalock, Steve Anderson, Roy Allison, Blanche Allison, Raymond Steele, Bernice Steele, Bus Reed, John Reed, Hilda Reed, Dale-lee Yanders, Marilyn Owen, Sharon Owen, Steve Owen, Cindy Owen, Betty Summers, Judy Summers, Dianne Summers, Mabel Hix, Beverly Jerome, Phiama Morgan, Quanee Morgan, Rosa Potts, Ann Weber, Marie German, Naomi Alkire, Linda Weaks, Grace Riley, Ada Gooden, Mae Smock, Hazel Simpson, Sarge York, Leona York, Frances Boose, Karen Carpenter, Betty Stone, Charlotte Peterson, Beverly Wallace, Marg Shoufler, Marsha Shoufler, Herbie Shoufler.



# “Hoopeston’s 100th Year” Cast Members

## EPISODE NO. 4 — EARLY SCHOOL DAYS

**SCHOOL CHILDREN:** Kathy Ritter, Becky Carter, Quanee Morgan, Karen Weger, Judy Summers, Joanne Harris, Ann Singleton, Cathy Baum, Carolgene Baum, Brian Ritter, Scott Holt, Mark Holt, Tammy Huber, Kim Blalock, Candy Huber, Susan Holt, Mark Crawford, Steve Long, Brent Clements, Le Ann Peterson, Misty Morgeson, Kim Nelson, Cassie Nelson, Gina Clements, Kelly Reagan, Tony Reagan, Roger Conrad, Cathy Roark, Wilma Ritter, Teacher.

**PERFECT YOUNG LADIES:** Sandy Eells, Teri York, Renee Benjamin, Shelly Ault, Cindy Ault, Susie Ford, Barb Shuler, Sue Unger, Paula Peterson, Juanita Peterson, Teacher.

## EPISODE NO. 5 - ANTEBELLUM YEARS

**OLD FASHIONED PEOPLE:** Rick Burtis, Beverly Jerome, Leon Polson, Dela Crabtree, Tim Crabtree, Cliff Crabtree, Odell Crabtree, Delores Crabtree, Debbie Siefert, Judy Blalock, Kim Blalock, George Blalock, Sandra Dee Blalock, Laura Lee Blalock, Jim Richards, Jeanne Richards, Leona York, Jack Silver, Mona Silver, Doris Silver, Kathy Silver, Raymond Steele, Bernice Steele, Bus Reed, Hilda Reed, Glen Brasel, Judy Summers, Betty Summers, Hazel Simpson, Betty Stone, Elizabeth Romine, Chris Romine, Anne Romine, Bob Romine, Linda Weaks, Naomi Alkire, Karen Carpenter, Norene Hannie, Evelyn Cauble, Elsie Forshier, Mary Haoks, Lucy Theobald, Mike Good, Betty Good, Doris Good, Byron Yanders, Dale-lee Yanders, Rusty Yanders, Dianne Summers, Bobby Forshier, Timmy Carter, Alvin Riffel, Norma Riffel, Marg Shoufler, Marsha Shoufler, Herbie Shoufler, Chris Richards, Kelly Richards, Randy Underwood, Robert G. Brown and Mike Brown.

## EPISODE NO. 6 - GAY 90'S

**BATHING BEAUTIES:** Linda Pocialik, Nancy Brougher, Jeanne Richards, Jeannie Law and April Meador.

**LIFEGUARDS:** Bruce Hoagland, Larry Kincade and Sarge York.

**GAY 90'S PEOPLE:** Hazel Simpson, Chris Richards, Vickie Dunavan, Marg Shoufler, Herbie Shoufler, Marsha Shoufler and Mike Good.

## EPISODE NO. 7 - FLICKS, FLAPPERS AND FLIVVERS

**GANGSTERS:** Larry Vance, Jerry Robertson, Bruce Hoagland, Bill Warner, Keith Roark, Rick Boyden and Dennis Jerome.

**CHARLESTON DANCERS:** Larry Kincade, Sharon Kincade, Ina Mae Mayer, Harry Mayer, Earl Lackey, Jean Lackey, Art Warner, Jeanne Warner, Mary Hale, Tom Holt, Marianne Boyer, Linda Gaffney, Mickie Brooks, Vickie Dunavan, Jim Richards, Dianne Summers, Barbara Shuler, Sue Unger, John Block, Randy Garner, Marilyn Owen, Steve Unger and Debbie McBride.

**RUDY VALENTINO:** Sarge York.

**THEDA BARRA:** Barb Forshier.

**IRATE HUSBAND:** Robert Weaks.

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## OTHERS HELPING

Mrs. Virginia Sheppard, Mrs. Mary Kay Swim, Mr. Burt Livingston, Ron Carter and W.A. Read.

# Queen Candidates

MARY ATCHISON  
KATHY BARKER  
PHYLIS BENJAMIN  
RENEE BENJAMIN  
MICKEY BROOKS  
KATHY BUTTERWORTH  
SALLIE BUTZOW  
NANCY CARVER  
MARY CRAVEN  
ELLEN DOBKINS  
KATHY ERICKSON  
VICKIE GADDIS  
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PAULINE HARTMAN  
DEBORA JOHNSON  
SHIRLEY NEAL  
LINDA NOSLER  
VIRGINIA POWELL  
JULIE PRATT  
JEANNE RICHARDS  
KAY ROSBORG  
MARY LOU SNIVELY  
PEGGY VAILES

RHONDA VOGEL  
SANDRA VOGEL  
LINDA WARF  
SHIELA WISE  
STARNA WISE  
CATHY ZIEGLER  
CAROLINE FLEENOR  
LULU WEAKS  
JILL MITCHELL  
JUDY BROCKWAY  
VICKIE KIETZMANN  
CINDY FORSHIER





#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Bill Burtis, Slim Collier, Charlotte Russell, Bill McGee, Dale Brown, "Pepper" Martin, Clyde Watson, Jim Miller, Paul Tolch, Marge Wallace, Sarah Ault, Larry Coon, Earl Smock. Not present: Tom Mills, Dale Preston, Lee Martin, Tate Duley.



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Joe Moore, Charlotte Russell, Earl Smock  
Not present: Tom Mills and Byron Hedgecock



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CHARLES F. DYER



Mayor and General Chairman  
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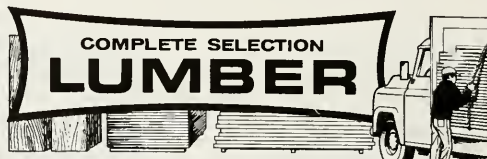
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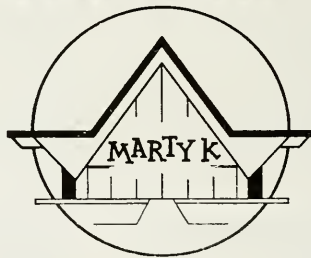
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Joe Haggerty and Carter Urch of Haggerty Chevrolet-Olds dealership, stand beside the new Chevrolet which will be given away as one of two grand prizes offered during the Hoopeston Area Centennial Celebration.

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# Happy Birthday To Our Home Town



It is with great pride we call Hoopeston "our home town". Although the Mills Family has lived in Hoopeston for only 23 years, we share the enthusiasm and pleasure of living here just as the founding families do.

The long colorful history of the CHRONICLE-HERALD is our heritage. As an integral part of Mills Publications, Inc. it points the way to our future.

We pledge to continue our efforts in producing the best possible small town newspaper . . . so that the continuing history of Hoopeston will be written, read and placed on file for the future Hoopestonites who will enjoy the good life of living in our home town.

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# Daughters of the American Revolution

When Barbara Standish Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, was organized September 8, 1905 with eighteen members it was the only chapter in Eastern Illinois outside of Chicago or Bloomington, except Alliance Chapter, Urbana-Champaign, which was organized the year before. Though only twelve members were needed for organization there was uncertainty of reaching that goal in so small a place as Hoopeston. Mary Hall Hamilton (Mrs. John L.) was a member of DAR when she moved to Hoopeston. Isadore McCaughey and Charlotte McFerren (Mrs. J. S.) had completed their papers for membership, but had laid them away, for they did not want to be members at large. When Mrs. Hamilton found there were two women with established lines she determined to organize a chapter in Hoopeston. She did nothing definite until Eunice Sater, a cousin of Miss McCaughey's came to Hoopeston as a teacher in the school system. She, too, was a member elsewhere, but promised that if a chapter were organized here she would transfer her membership. She did, and by September 8, 1905 there were more than enough to organize a chapter, and Charter Number 677 dated October 4, 1905 was granted them by the National Society, DAR, Washington, D. C.

Today Barbara Standish Chapter has a membership of seventy two, with nearly half being non-resident members.

PAST REGENTS: 1905-1908, Mary Hall Hamilton; 1908-1910, Eliza Lukens Williams; 1910-1912, Charlotte Lee McFerren; 1912-1914, Mary Finley Honeywell; 1914-1916, Isadore McCaughey; 1916-1917, Lillian Clark Warner; 1918-1920, Anna

Thompson Boorde; 1920-1921, Katherine B. Greene; 1921-1922, Lucy Potter Yates; 1922-1923, Mary L. ReVeal; 1923-1924, Addie Reece Finley; 1924-1925, Lutie Woolverton Rice; 1925-1926, Hallie Bell Erickson Smith; 1927-1929, Anna Thompson Boorde; 1929-1931, Hattie Marston Sibbitt; 1931-1933, Carrie Harlan Pruitt; 1933-1935, Mary Finley Honeywell; 1935-1937, Sara Honeywell Earl; 1937-1938, Maude Gay Parnell; 1939-1941, Mary Shafer Frame; 1941-1943, Iva Reece Gustine; 1943-1945, Marie Honeywell Hay; 1945-1947, Gladys Evans; 1947-1949, Vera Crain Murray; 1949-1951, Etta McFarland Landers; 1951-1953, Nellie Jane McFerren Liggio; 1953-1955, Lanie Carter Young; 1955-1957, Forrest Murray Browne; 1957-1961, Mary Ethel Perkins; 1961-1965, Grace Muir Bailey; 1965-1967, Helen Yates Kaufmann; 1967-1968, Jane Ditton Yeoman; and 1968-1971, Irene Crouch.

## Ira Owen Kreager Aux

Soon after the men who fought in World War I returned to Hoopeston, an American Legion Post was organized. Since the women of Hoopeston rallied to the war cause, it was only natural they wanted to continue those efforts, so an Auxiliary to the Legion began.

Little has been found concerning those first years, but Mrs. E. J. Boorde was diligent in rounding up prospective members early in the Spring of 1922.

The first endorsement was signed by the then Post Commander, Floyd Sargent and the adjutant, M. S. Cash in May. The second endorsement was signed by the Department President, Mrs. W. E. Hartman on June 16, 1922, with the third on June 22, 1922, by the National Secretary, Pauline Curmick, and the fourth and final one on June 26, 1922, and Mrs. Boorde became the organizing president, later was elected the president for the coming year.

There were 22 charter members, according to material available, with 17 of them now deceased. They were: Mesdames E. J. Boorde, J. N. Fraley, C. F. Dyer, Wm. McFerren, Mabel Boorde, Cuy Burton, F. E. Miller, M. S. Cash, M. M. Clements, E. H. Gustine, W. L. Berkey, J. B. Kerr, D. J. McFerren, Rose E. Foster, J. H. Dyer, Ella Petry, J. S. McFerren, A. E. Raasch, F. R. Johnson, Harris Beck, George Raasch and W. J. Sharon.

## RN Club

On November 17, 1960, when a hospital in Hoopeston had gone from the dream stage to reality, a group of registered nurses in the community met in the home of Mr. John Haughee. The meeting was set up to determine the number of nurses available in the area who could staff the hospital, and to set up a registry of private duty nurses to work locally and in Danville hospitals.

It was decided to form an organization with a membership of the nurses in the city and surrounding area. The group would operate under a constitution and a set of by-laws, meet regularly for both social and professional purposes and sponsor needed projects in the community. The object was to "reacquaint nurses with nursing purposes and to help elevate standards of nursing in the community". Dr. Werner Fliesser agreed to sponsor the organization.

The charter members of the group are as follows: Alta Allen, Pat Anderson, Dorothy Barry, Janet Blankinship, Norma Bitto, Carol Clements, Mable Cottingham, Wanda Crusinberry, Emma Eckersly, Jean Gonzalez, Mary Hanson, Juanita Haughee, Phyllis Hosfield, Marvelene Hushaw, Lorraine Hott, Helen Kaufmann, Adeline Kinder, Lillie Ingle, Kathy Layden, Marty Leigh, Shirley Lusk, Carol Newman, Mary Ann Sinclair, and Charlotte Whittle.

The first slate of officers was: President, Juanita Haughee, Vice president, Phyllis Hosfield, Secretary, Lorraine Hott, Treasurer, Carol Clements, Parliamentarian, Charlotte Whittle. The slate was adopted at a meeting in January 1961. The regular meeting date was set for the fourth Tuesday night each month except July and August.

## Hoopeston Garden Club

The Hoopeston Garden Club was organized on July 12, 1966, at the home of Mrs. Mary Jones, East Penn St.

We have a closed membership of 20 members. We meet the fourth Friday of each month at 1:30 p.m. September thru June. Two members serve each month, one being hostess and the other giving the program. Dues are \$2.00 payable each June.

The first officers in 1966 were: Pres-Mrs. Marguerite Crouch; Vice-pres-Mrs. Kathryn Dunn, who resigned. Mrs. Mary Matthews was elected to take her place; Sec.-Mrs. Esther Anderson; Treas.-Mrs. Geraldine Baier; Publicity-Mrs. Gertrude Knox.

The meeting was called to order by the president. She asked for suggestions for a name for the new club. After some discussion it was moved by Mrs. Clara Hott, that the club should be known as the "Hoopeston Garden Club". The motion was seconded, then voted and accepted. New by-laws were drawn up.

We have very instructive garden programs and we are a very well attended and active club.

Officers for 1970-71 are: Pres.-Lillie E. Southwick; Vice-pres.-Mrs. Susie Lithgow; Sec.-Treas.-Mrs. Viola Mitchell; Publicity-Mrs. Hazel Cragg.

## Women of the Moose

In 1914, the Women of the Moose organization was called Women of the Mooseheart Legion. In 1930, Women of the Mooseheart Legion was officially designated as the Women of the Moose, an auxiliary of the Loyal Order of Moose.

On January 25, 1939 Women of the Moose Hoopeston Chapter 49 was organized. Thirteen women were enrolled by Champaign, Illinois Women of the Moose officers. Officers for Hoopeston Chapter were: Ethel Lucas, Jr. Graduate Regent; Katherine Hite, Senior Regent; Mamie Guthrie, Jr. Regent; Ada Jackson, Chaplain; Ruth Richardson, Recorder; Agnes Wood, Treasurer; Katy Wise, Sentinel; Alta Lane, Argus. The only living charter member is Mrs. Alta Lane, 642 East McCracken Avenue, Hoopeston, who was 84 years old March 7, 1971.



# Order of the Eastern Star

This story has its beginning like the history of so many fine enterprises with "A woman and her dream." Her dream was to establish a chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star of Illinois in the young and growing city of Hoopeston, Illinois. She had the desire to interest people in this organization in which female relatives of Master Masons could share some of the benefits from this great fraternal order. She was a young lady by the name of Lyda Hickman, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hickman, who lived on a farm near Claytonville, Illinois. Lyda Hickman had joined Jessamine Chapter No. 194 O.E.S. of Illinois held at Rankin, Illinois on September 16, 1897. She moved with her parents from the farm near Claytonville on November 30, 1897 to the residence at 508 West Penn Street, Hoopeston, Illinois.

Shortly after moving to Hoopeston, Lyda Hickman set about the task of organizing the Hoopeston chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star of Illinois.

On November 21, 1899, eleven ladies and twelve men met in the Masonic Hall, which was then located above the Burton's Dry Goods Store on the north side in the 200 block of East Main Street near Bank Street. The meeting was called to order by Robert Smith. Lyda Hickman was chosen as chairman and Susie Seekatz as secretary for the evening. A petition for dispensation was circulated and twenty-three people signed it. This petition for dispensation, having the required number of signatures, was to be sent to Chicago to the Worthy Grand Matron of the O.E.S. of Illinois. The required fee of \$25.00 was collected to be sent with this petition for dispensation.

The charter was received Oct. 3, 1900 with 20 charter members.

## B & PW Club

On February 21, 1952, a meeting was held at the Maple School for the purpose of organizing a Business & Professional Women's club in Hoopeston. Several women from Hoopeston and vicinity were present and members from various clubs in Kankakee, Urbana, Watseka, and Danville were present to explain activities, advantages, etc. of such a club. Miss Miriam Taylor acted as chairman and appointed a by-laws and nominating committees.

The second organization meeting was held in the Library on Tuesday, March 11, at which time the officers were elected.

The club was sponsored by the Danville Club and received its charter May 28, 1952 with 46 charter members.

Membership consists of Women in Business or the Professionals, also retired women who were members at the time of their retirement.

Programs are planned to be of interest to members participating in all different fields of employment, some of them are: Color Dynamics, Club Affairs, Defense of United Nations, Films on Heart Disease & Cancer, Attorney on laws and Wills, AFS Students, Pictures & Program, Welcome Wagon, Christmas Decorations, Antiques, Facts about Nursing Home, Women Voters, Hair & Wig styles, Charm & Grooming for Business Women, First Aid, and at present several programs on drugs.

We have helped in many civic projects, such as: City Beautification, Local Migrant Council, Getting out the Vote, United Fund, Cancer Drive, Red Cross Drive, donate to the Hoopeston Hospital and Nursing Home, gave baskets to needy families, also to County Home, Polio Drive, and local school for retarded children.

The club presents a scholarship each year to an outstanding student.

In 1960-61, Miss Miriam Taylor was District Vice-Chairman, and 1961-62, was District Chairman. In 1970-71, May Lily Wells is the Secretary and Treasurer of the District.

At the present there are 66 members, of which 13 charter members.

# Literary Club

One cold Fall evening in October, 1913, the male persuasion of certain families of this city were being banqueted by the Brotherhood Union at the Rusk Garage. Now the idea of mere male men having a banquet and not saying beans to us, their better halves, well this was enough for us but too much for our sister, Mrs. Flagg, who began immediately to devise ways and means of getting even with these banqueters. She first called up Mrs. Southwick, and we all know what Mrs. Flagg couldn't think of, Mrs. Southwick could.

These two ladies put their heads together and their phones in action and the consequences were, one by one of us wended our way to the home of Mrs. Flagg and when a roll was called the following ladies responded: Mrs. Flagg, Miss Elder, Mrs. Southwick, Mrs. Dunscomb, and Mrs. Robinson, and Mrs. Abbott.

A very pleasant and profitable evening was spent, in-as-much as it was the birth of the T. E. CLUB (Now the Tuesday afternoon Club.)

At the second meeting the constitution and by-laws were presented, approved and adopted. And the Tuesday Evening Club was a reality.

It was decided to limit the membership to fifteen, hence invitations were issued to and accepted by Mrs. J. Patterson, Mrs. E. Knox, Mrs. M. A. Boardman, Mrs. Jessie Jones, Mrs. W. Finley, Mrs. R. Zook, forming the original club.

It was decided to meet every Tuesday evening and to purchase and read before the club, the latest and most popular literature.

## Woman's Relief Corps

No history, however brief, would be complete without a mention of a "vanished" Army, those valiant soldiers who comprised the Union Army during the Civil War of 1861-1865, their Commander-in-Chief, Abraham Lincoln, 16th president of the United States, their cause to preserve our union.

The Grand Army of the Republic, a veteran organization, was the result of the planning and efforts of Dr. B. F. Stephenson, Springfield, Illinois, who had served his country as a physician-surgeon through this bloody war, resuming his practice at the close of the conflict.

The Woman's Relief Corps, composed of Loyal-Women, no blood affiliation being considered necessary, were chosen by vote of the convention to be the true Auxiliary. They were duly instituted as such in the yr. 1883, making them the oldest group of patriotic women in America.

As an organization we have since participated in a successful drive to purchase several ambulances to be sent to France during World War One; successfully raised thousands of dollars to aide in the Blood Bank and in the donation of blood.

Following the death of the final G.A.R. veteran, Albt. Woolson, Minn., at the age of 109, in 1956, assistance to veterans of all wars of the United States of America have been included in our services.

In 1941-42 a permanent National Headquarters of our organization was established in Springfield, Illinois, this was replaced with a beautiful new building which was formally dedicated in 1963. The structure houses our office and supply center, also a museum containing authentic Civil War souvenirs and relics furnished by our members and their families. It is open to the public, three days weekly, without charge and is located at 7th and Cook Sts., a proud memorial to the Grand Army of the Republic.

One of these units, or Corps, the last to be organized, was the Albert Woolson Corps, located here in Hoopeston, named for the last survivor of the Grand Army of the Republic, it was instituted March 28th, 1955. Members have engaged in all the aforementioned activities, giving their first attention to the VAVS Hospital, Danville, Ill.

Mrs. Hazel Galyen is presently serving as president of this group.



# Ira Owen Kreager Post No. 384

On the first anniversary of Armistice Day, November 11, 1919, 31 veterans of this community under the leadership of Charles F. Dyer, as temporary chairman, and Clarence S. Miller, as temporary secretary submitted an application for a charter as a post of the American Legion.

Charter members were: Charles F. Dyer, Lloyd P. Petry, Donald J. McFerren, Clarence S. Miller, Louis G. Willett, Charles D. Hinkle, William McFerren, Bert A. Knoll, Russell C. Finley, Frank B. Morgan, Earl W. Harkness, Thomas P. Smith, Glen O. Johnson, Everett Van Dorn, Ivan L. Revel, Orilla Kreager, Sylvester J. Murray, John Ross Boorde, Thomas Regalley, Christ V. George, Peter Cherekos, Fred E. Earel, Irby Downey, Carl A. Dodson, Maurice R. Foster, Frank S. Martin.

A temporary charter was granted by the National Executive Committee of the American Legion on December 31, 1919. On August 10, 1920 a permanent charter was received by the Post.

These ex-servicemen chose to memorialize the name of the first Hoopeston native to die in World War I and the Post was named in honor of Ira Owen Kreager. Cpl. Kreager was killed in action in France on October 28, 1918 with less than a month before World War I ended.

With the return of Company "B", bringing with it the greater number of the local soldiers, the membership of the Post began to enlarge. At the first annual meeting, Captain "Jack" Steward was elected Commander to guide the destinies of the organization through the year 1920. It was a year filled with eventful things in the life of the young Post. Club rooms were secured and appropriately furnished and the Post established itself as a going concern.

During the first few years of existence, the post conducted its meetings on the second floor of downtown store buildings. Records are incomplete, but it is known that meetings were in the old Commercial club building and at 114½ East Main Street above the R & C Cafe.

However, these early members realized that the possession of a home is one of the best guarantees of permanence and

progress that an organization can have and on November 10, 1928 moved into their new post home at 205 East Penn Street.

This home was one of the finest in the state of Illinois for a post whose annual membership was approximately 170 members from 1930 until 1943.

By 1944, returning veterans of World War II began swelling the ranks of the American Legion until by 1948, the Post had a membership of 605.

The Legion was very definitely suffering from growing pains and in need of larger quarters. On August 10, 1948 the membership voted to purchase the William McFerren home at 502 East Penn Street and moved into their new home during December 1948. In August of 1957, a new addition was completed.

## Woman's Club

Previous to the formation of the Hoopeston Woman's Club in 1928, a County Federation was in existence and two local Clubs, the Tuesday Evening and the Mary Hartwell, were affiliated with it. At an Eighteenth District meeting in Danville Mrs. Stella Cromer and Mrs. Maud Parnell represented the Mary Hartwell Catherwood Club, but the Tuesday Evening Club was unable to send delegates. This meeting so impressed the Hoopeston women that they invited the group to hold the District Meeting in Hoopeston the following year, being certain that the members of the Tuesday Evening Club would assist in the venture. That District Meeting was one of friendship and inspiration, showing what women, when united in fellowship, could accomplish. Moreover, such club work fitted into the current thinking of the local women who, during World War I, had been associated in Red Cross activities. At those times the wish had often been expressed that women from all churches might join together in some worth while projects for the community.

The idea of a Woman's Club seemed to answer this need. Therefore, when Mrs. O. E. Herman of Momence, district county president, to start a local Club, work was begun at once. Miss Ethel Perkins and Mrs. Frank Parnell were members of the county board at that time and were interested in what such an organization could do. Notices were sent by Mrs. Parnell to local organizations asking each to send two representatives to a meeting to discuss forming such a Club.

Twelve organizations responded and the meeting was held on April 19, 1928, in the Masonic Temple, now known as the City Building. Mrs. Herman and Mrs. Maud Kelly, the latter member of the state board, were present to explain the workings of a Federated Club. The result was a unanimous vote to establish such a group in this city and the following women were elected as officers: President, Mrs. Margaret Marshall; vice-president, Mrs. Constance Southwick; secretary, Mrs. Maud Parnell, treasurer, Mrs. Ella Zook.

## Hoopeston Hobby Club

Organized October 1953, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Roark. Eight signed the charter. Mrs. Roark, club historian. Glenn Brasel, floor plan Chairman for the 16th Annual Antique and Hobby Shows, are remaining charter members. The shows sponsored by the club presented treasures of yesterday today and tomorrow for the pleasure of the public.

The club has contributed to many local organizations.

Other members include: Miss Lillie Southwick; Mr. and Mrs. James A. Anderson (Mr. Anderson treas.); Mr. and Mrs. John P. Cadle (Mrs. Cadle vice-pres.); Mrs. Helen Hasselbring; Mr. and Mrs. Harold Crouch; Mr. and Mrs. Burton Livingston; Rev. and Mrs. Walter Evans (Mrs. Evans sec.); Mr. and Mrs. Don Bury; Mr. and Mrs. Myron Norton (Mrs. Norton, pres.); Mr. and Mrs. Fremont Crouch, Mr. and Mrs. David E. Cleveland.

## Beta Sigma Phi Sorority

Zeta Omicron chapter of Beta Sigma Phi was formed November 4, 1947.

The first officers were: president, Mrs. Russell Hickman; vice-president, Mrs. Robert Pittman; secretary, Mrs. Robert Thomas; treasurer, Mrs. Richard Enters.

Charter members were: MESDAMES A. J. Nelson, Robert Pittman, Russell Hickman, Robert Thomas, Richard Enters, William Dazey, Jim Cleveland, Tom Andes, Howard Matthews, Lyle Mitchell, Jim Forshier and Dr. Maxine Seabloom. Of the charter members Mrs. Pittman, Mrs. Thomas, Mrs. Cleveland and Mrs. Forshier are still active.

Xi Beta Rho chapter was formed May 22, 1951.

The present officers of this chapter are: president, Mrs. Warren Songer; vice-president, Mrs. George Patterson; secretary, Mrs. George Petry; treasurer, Mrs. Jim Forshier.

The present officers of Zeta Omicron chapter are: president, Mrs. Clyde Runge; vice-president, Mrs. Paul Tolch; secretary, Mrs. Ray Mendenhall, and treasurer, Mrs. Robert Braden.

Civic activities through the year have included: Heart Fund; Sweet Corn Festival, entertained queens; drive to aid Fire Station building; Cancer Drive; made cancer dressings; gifts to handicapped school; pledged to hospital; given Christmas baskets; March of Dimes; planted trees in McFerren Park; purchased wheel chairs for use of local residents; in 1952 started petition which resulted in kindergarten being added to our school system; given toward Foreign Exchange Fund; given to High School Band Uniforms; In 1969 started the Beta Sigma Phi award. This award is given to a deserving girl to further her education.



# Chamber of Commerce

Early leaders of the community took a most active part in the organization of Hoopeston's first Chamber of Commerce, just as community leaders do today.

The first roster includes A.M. Keller, president, R.C. Davison, secretary, George Evans, treasurer. Directors were Walter Trego, Otto Ogdon, Charles W. Warner, Mark Koplin, I.N. Heaton, F.C. Moore, E.J. Boorde, W.C. Welty, George Evans, Ore M. Ross, Ellsworth Ilif, I.E. Merritt, William Moore, John F. Ost, and Mac C. Wallace.

The organization was effected on July 16th, 1919, and the roster of membership was impressive, running to a total of about 400. It seems that nearly everyone was included, even doctors, dentists, lawyers, and all small business men.

At a subsequent meeting committees were appointed to carry on the work of the chamber. Mac Wallace headed up the Civic Division, E. J. Boorde, transportation, Ellsworth Ilif, industrial, I. N. Heaton, production, George Evans, commercial.

The following year W.A. Miskimen was elected president, and Charles Finley, Ed Trego, Ray Ulery, C.H. Rimes, and Dexter Crandall were committee chairmen.

The chamber in those days was extremely active. They had a luncheon every week, often changed to a night meeting once in a while. A steady procession of speakers held the rostrum.

Activities were much the same as now. They promoted industry and retail trade, started a housing corporation with \$50,000 capital to supply the housing shortage. They considered a hospital, but nothing in the records show what happened to the project.

Along in 1944, C.A.E. Sheets became a power in the Chamber of Commerce, and headed up the War Bond Drive. Ed succeeded Gary Finch as secretary.

Under Ed Sheets direction the bond drive assumed high proportions. Publicized daily in the Chronicle-Herald, and promoted by a "Sweetheart Contest", the drive reached the total of \$410,000.

This was the year when considerable discussion centered around establishment of a youth center, but records show no accomplishment.

Since those days the history of the Chamber of Commerce is well high current. The Chamber fostered the Industrial Corporation, and financed it getting off the ground. The Chamber also spearheaded early efforts to build the hospital here, and paid for the first papers of incorporation.

The record shows that The Chamber of Commerce has been in the forefront of activity on all matters for more than fifty years. It has taken its part of community leadership seriously and has performed very well.

Today its membership shows a strong cross-section of community leaders just as it did fifty years ago. The leaders today are young men, just as they were young men in former days, although we are today inclined to view them as ancients, for as time passed over the years that's what they became, as will today's leaders.

More current history of the Chamber of Commerce reveals a long list of projects more or less familiar with today's populations. They include:

Creation of United Fund project, Christmas decorations, School Teacher's project, Fire Code protection policies, Expansion of the Armory, signs at approaches to the city, 1960 aid in bringing Crest Transformer to Hoopeston, helped Industrial Corporation raise funds for land purchase, secured new traffic lights, established separate retail budget, 1964 helped remodel Civic Center, 1964 helped finance new doctor's quarters, 1965 new waste containers downtown and eliminated trash burning, 1966 downtown flower pots, 1968 established better relations with Illinois State Department of Economic Development.

More recently the Chamber was named creator of Hoopeston Public Library Trust Fund and assisted in financing by contributing \$1,000.

# Jr. Woman's Club

During the early part of 1936, many active young women in Hoopeston belonging to the Senior Woman's Club became interested in forming a Junior Woman's Club in Hoopeston. After discussion it was decided to form such a club and under the direction of such women as Isabelle Long, Carol Smith, Bee Pape, Helen Lytle, Margaret Stark, and Kate Trego the Hoopeston Jr. Woman's Club was soon on its way to being a very important and civic minded organization in the community.

Although this new club enjoyed knitting and playing bridge at their meetings, they wasted no time in giving of themselves to the community. They started by giving clothes to needy high school girls, giving to Cancer control and gave donations to the Park Ridge school for girls.

Today finds the club still donating to all the diseases and charities and needy organizations. We sponsored a conservation student the past two years along with setting up an Arts and Crafts program during the summer. We purchased a record player and gave to the Public Library and undertook the task of planting the flower pots in the business part of town. In the 1970 fall festival float contest the club completely built and designed their own float and received first place in their division. Presently the club consists of twenty-three members.

## Art Association

The Hoopeston Art Association is an organization of artists and anyone interested in art and crafts.

The object of this organization, is to encourage the community interest in and to create a greater appreciation of art through lectures, gallery talks, demonstrations and exhibits, and to further individual study in the Arts.

It was founded in 1955, with 17 paid members, as follows, Mesdames, Helen Andis, Louis Braden, Gladys Finch, Freeda Franklin, Bonnie Hixon, Jean Johnson, Betty King, Margaret McIntyre, Reta Neal, Margaret Preston, Ruth Sills, Amelia Virgin, Janice Wood, and Irma Zook, Miss Helen Keister, Miss Hazel Timmons, and James Forshier.

The first meeting of persons interested in forming an Art group was held Nov. 3, 1955, at the Hoopeston Public Library with Bonnie Hixon presiding.

## Hoopeston Jaycees

Hoopeston's Jaycees were organized following World War II as the Junior Chamber of Commerce and have since been active in promoting projects for community betterment, underprivileged families, promotion of the community and a long list of others.

The Junior Chamber assumed responsibilities in 1948 of the National Sweet Corn Festival, an annual event which marks the end of the sweet corn canning season and are now preparing for the 27th festival Labor Day Weekend.

Highlight of the years was in 1962, when the local chapter was named the top club in the state and nation in its population division for several areas of work.

Presidents of the chapter since 1948 include: 1948, Lyle Mitchell; 1949, Elmer Unger; 1950, Harry Silver; 1951, Marvin Custer; 1952, Robert Chesnut; 1953, Dean Hixon; 1954, Robert Langdoc; 1955, Roy Carlson; 1956, Elwin Barber; 1957, Tom Mills; 1958, Charles France; 1959, Dale Preston, Jr.; 1960, William Johnson; 1961, John Leigh; 1962, Larry Oyler; 1963, Tom Galloway; 1964, Odell Crabtree; 1965, Dale Rush; 1966, Gene Hanshaw; 1967, Charles Davis; 1968, William Matthews; 1969, Marty Parsons; 1970, Mike Blankinship; 1971, Fred Zemke.

Young men of age 21-35 are eligible for membership.



# Sweet Corn Capital Color Shooters

The club was formed in May of 1958 with the first business meeting being held June 2, 1958 in the basement of the Universalist church. Officers selected for the first year were, President: Bill Zeigler; Vice-Pres: Bob Pitman; Sec.-Treasurer: Jim Sedgewick. The purpose of such an organization was to promote interest in color slides and to learn more about photography. The club has belonged to the "Central Illinois Camera Club Association" since being formed. This group now numbers 28 clubs in Illinois and Iowa. As a club the Sweet Corn Capital Color Shooters have had an annual salon each year. Categories are chosen each year and members are encouraged to enter his or her quota of slides. These are judged by a panel of three outside judges. Trophies and ribbons are presented to the winners.

Our club is very active in the Central Illinois Camera Club Association, attending weekend conferences where the best of teachers show how to shoot better pictures. Our members also enter this annual salon and we have had many ribbons won by our members. We are one of the smaller clubs so we feel quite honored in having one of our members serve on the official board. Dick Carrell has served four years and is currently acting as Treasurer. He was also given an Associate membership in the Central Illinois Camera Club Association this past year because of his work within his own club and also his devotion to the C. I. C. C. A.

Several of our members belong to the "Photographic Society of America". We also enter the Illinois State Fair slide contest each year and have received many ribbons there.

A club project is seeing that the foreign exchange student takes home with them a set of slides depicting life in and around

Hoopeston, with some also showing interesting places in the U. S. A. These slides have been taken by our members. The members go on several field trips a year to places of interest, and also conduct work-shops within our club to learn more about photography.

We now have 24 active members with our current officers being: president, Kenneth Parkinson; vice-president, Mrs. Ray (Helen) Marshall; secretary-treasurer, Murrell Strickler. The club meets the second and fourth Wednesday in the basement of the Presbyterian church. We do not meet in July and August. Visitors are always more than welcome.

A new project this year is entering the Charleston, Illinois camera clubs' annual salon which is by invitation only. Four other clubs will be competing with us and the subject is "Occupations Or People At Work".

## Merry Circle Club

Just a few miles southwest of Hoopeston there was a neighborhood (still existing) known as THE PLAINVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD. This took in the Bristle Ridge School Dist. 22, the Franks School on No. 9 and the Liberty School. In the heart of this neighborhood in the year (1910) there stood a small white Country Methodist Church, called "PLAINVIEW". Folks in that area attended church services and the few social gatherings that it provided, but it was not enough.

For several months in the early part of the year 1910, Mrs. James Tilton (Aunt Fannie) as she worked around her country home, thought how nice it would be for the ladies in the neighborhood to get together occasionally for a social time. She voiced her ideas to other ladies and on July 21st, 1910 thirteen ladies came in their buggies with prancing horses to attend this afternoon party. It was held at the home of Mrs. Charles Hughes. They discussed the possibility of a Club and everyone present thought it an excellent idea.

Officers were then selected with Mrs. James Tilton, president, Mrs. Charles Hughes, vice-president, Miss Mary Tilton (now Mrs. Date Houmes and only Charter Member living) as secretary, and Mrs. Perry Dawson treasurer. Dues were 25 cents per year. Constitution and by-laws were drawn and the club was to meet every third Thursday in the month and refreshments were to be served.

The first official meeting of the new club was held at the home of Mrs. Othel Insley (Mina Wood), and the name of "THE MERRY CIRCLE CLUB" was selected, for the newly organized Club's name.

The club is still active 61 years later.

## Conservation Club

Several interested persons met at the Dennis Rhodes home in October of 1961 and a club was organized for the Hoopeston area.

Arrangements were made to affiliate with the Illinois Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs and the name was chosen. From its beginning, the club has grown to a membership of over 200 and meets the third Thursday of each month.

A new clubhouse was built in 1971 at the club's fishing lake east of town.

The Illinois Wildlife Federation named the local club as its "Outstanding Club in the State of Illinois" in 1970 for its record of conservation activities.

Presidents since the club was formed have included: 1961, Guy Sinclair; 1962, Bill Harrington; 1963, Tom Mills; 1964, Fred Smith; 1965, John Sprague; 1966, Harold Morrison; 1967, Jack Cleveland; 1968, Tom Sheridan; 1969-1970, Jim Glover; and 1971, John Clayton.

## Girl Scouting

Girl Scouting was introduced to Hoopeston by Mrs. Walter Trego in 1935. She was assisted as commissioner by Mrs. Faye Crandall, vice-commissioner, Mrs. R.W.J. Narris, treasurer and Mrs. E. H. Gustine, secretary. There were 40 girls in 2 troops that year.

In 1940 a fund and plans were started for the dream of a Girl Scout "Little House". \$100 was set aside for it and invested in bonds. Bit by bit the fund grew and with it the movement grew too.

During the 1950's there were 12 troops. By 1958 there were 284 registered girls in 13 troops, aided by 71 adults as leaders, council members and committee members.

In 1958 a movement began to organize all local councils into larger groups with national ties. To the Hoopeston Scouts this meant merging with the Green Meadows Council, with headquarters in Champaign serving Champaign, Ford, Iroquois, Piatt, and Vermilion counties. It was also the year to see a dream become a reality. Under the direction of Mrs. Willard Nelson, president; Mrs. Leland Martin, vice-president; Mrs. H. J. Jones, treasurer, and Mrs. E. H. Gustine, secretary, Silver Bros. was contracted to erect the building in McFerren Park known as "The Little House."

This building has been the home of scouting since, serving as a meeting place for troop meetings, cook-outs, overnight parties, and Day Camp, as well as training sessions and leader meetings.

In 1969 a new fund was started to make our home more serviceable year round. Under the direction of Mrs. B.J. Sears, neighborhood chairman and Mrs. Charles Peterson, district chairman the improvements completed in 1970 include a new floor furnace, insulated ceiling and improved lighting with the Hoopeston Jaycees supplying the manpower.

Hoopeston has supplied three past board members of Green Meadows Council; Mrs. Lucy Carlson, Herbert Shoufter, and Mr. Ross Childers, Mrs. Bobby Joe Sears, delegate to the 1969 National Convention and Bobby Joe Sears-District Cookie Sale Chairman.



# Veterans of Foreign Wars and Auxiliary

On December 3, 1945, the local post of Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States was instituted and officially recognized in Hoopeston.

Early organizational meetings were held in the old Town Clock building then on the northeast corner of Main and Bank streets. This building was destroyed by fire many years ago.

A charter was issued under the name Hoopeston Post No. 4826 with 49 charter members. Wilfred C. Griner was the charter commander and served until March 1946.

The post name was officially changed to Buddy Egnew Post No. 4826 effective October 1, 1952, as a memorial to the first Hoopeston lad to give his life for his country in World War II. Robert Ross Egnew, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ross Egnew, was serving aboard the battleship Arizona at Pearl Harbor, Oahu, T.H., on that fateful Sunday morning of December 7, 1941. He and many of his shipmates are still manning the never decommissioned Arizona.

Chartered on January 7, 1953, the Ladies Auxiliary unit of Post No. 4826 began its untiring work for the Post. The ladies in this unit have contributed immeasurably to the progress and growth of the parent post. They carry on much of the work at the Veterans Administration hospital and are charged with the responsibility of Buddy Poppy sales on or near Veterans Day of each year.

In 1958 a Junior Auxiliary was organized and nationally chartered. This unit consists of girls too young to be members of the regular auxiliary but who are otherwise qualified by being in the immediate family of a VFW member. The Junior Auxiliary received its charter at ceremonies during the first installation meeting on March 1, 1958.

Also in 1954 several members organized into a drill team for the purpose of participating in local and nearby parades. Vernon Terry, 1957 commander of the post, was the first commander of the drill squad and helped lead the unit to State Championship at the Peoria convention in 1955.

Winning team members were Vernon Terry, leader, Lawrence Bury, Mike Scullin, Dick Boltz and Donald Rhodes. Wayne Gossett, Maurice Leigh Jr., Jerry Eells, Donald Christensen and Dennis Rhodes along with Earl O. Carter, Ray Silville and Don Cawthon completed the roster.

The stellar team again surpassed its opponents at the Chicago convention in 1957, carrying home the top trophy for the second time. These comrades must be congratulated for placing the name "Buddy Egnew" and Hoopeston to the forefront in V.F.W. records.

## Auxiliary Presidents

Charter President — Jan. 7, 1953, Dorothy Carter. 1954, Eunice Rhodes; 1955, Anna Rhodes; 1956, Virginia Rhodes; 1957, Marie Crouch; 1958, Harriett Snively; 1959, Gloria Young; 1960, Rosemary Reed; 1961, Margaret Sinclair; 1962, Lois Bury; 1963, Irene Whiteman; 1964, Naomi Cox; 1965, Norma Sollars; 1966,

Shirley Ziebart; 1967, Shirley McIntyre; 1968, Kay Gustine; 1969, Ruth Matthews; 1970, Anna Whiteman.

## COMMANDERS

Charter Commander, Dec. 1945 - March 1946, Wilfred C. Griner. 1946-47, Dale C. Ellis; 1947-48, Floyd Taflinger; 1948-49, Franklin Harris; 1949-50, Lester Kincade; 1950-51, Robert D. Pittman; 1951-52, Earl O. Carter; 1952-53, Werner Fliesser; 1953-54, Harold E. Cox; 1954-55, Lawrence Bury; 1955-56, Maurice C. Leigh Jr.; 1956-57, Louis E. Schuen; 1957-58, Vernon F. Terry; 1958-59, Richard Boltz; 1959-60, Edwin Gustine; 1960-61, Jerry Eells; 1961-62, William Ziegler; 1962-63, William Ziegler; 1963-64, Charles L. Roberts; 1964-65, Charles L. Roberts; 1965-66, Donald J. Rhodes; 1966-67, Willard McIntyre; 1967-68, James O. Goodrum; 1968-69, Raymond Sinclair; 1969-70, Virgil T. Warf; 1970-71, Lloyd W. McFann.

## Job's Daughters Bethel

Job's Daughters is an organization which seeks to bring together young women who believe in God and the teachings of the Holy Bible. Job's Daughters was founded by Mrs. Ethel T. Wead Mick in Omaha, Neb., in Oct. of 1920.

It is an international organization with members in some foreign countries, as well as nearly every state in the United States.

The Hoopeston Bethel was instituted on July 20, 1957, by the Grand Guardian, Mrs. Helen Harvey, of Paris, Illinois. On the same day the Guardian Council was installed, the members of the Bethel were initiated, and the Bethel Officers were installed.

The Hoopeston Bethel meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:30 P.M. The word "Bethel" means Holy Place and is the name for the local unit, corresponding to Lodge or Chapter in other Masonic Orders.

Membership in Job's Daughters is open to girls 12 to 20 who are daughters, adopted daughters, stepdaughters, granddaughters, great-granddaughters, sisters, half sisters, step-sisters, sisters-in-law, nieces, grand nieces, or first or second cousins of Master Masons.

The Charter Members of the Bethel were as follows: Donna Jessup, Suzanne Umbanhower, Karen Waschick, Ruth Ann Bell, Mary Lynn O'Neal, Mary Jane Silver, Barbara Catron, Terry Jean Leverezenz, Linda Lou Berglund, Karen Emory, Dawn Park, Jean Carlson, Jane Brockway, Sharon Nussear, Linda Sue Hunt, Janice Kay Bone, Sharol Mitchell, Ann Olson, Pamela Bell, Susan Smith, Susan Cleveland, Kristie Kell, Joyce Jordan, Linda Lou Silver, Marjorie Bone, Paulette Kay Cutler, Marjorie Kay Stark, Marcia Elaine Lund, Donna Gay Mitchell, Karen Ann Merritt, Nancy Grunwaldt, and Harriett Ludwig.

## TBH Club

Fifty-nine years ago, the TBH Club was organized. The good friends that met that night selected Clara Gardner as their president protem and Lyda Adsit as temporary secretary. Lida Watson had the honor of naming it "The Two Busy Hours Club."

Later, we became known simply as the TBH Club. As most people know, from these initials, the devoted husband of one of the members gave the club a nickname that has remained a jolly reminder of early days. I. E. Merritt claimed "TBH" stood for "Twenty Bad Hens."

Actually the sincere friendships that created the club date farther back than 59 years. As long ago as February 1912, a group of prominent local matrons would get together once in a while afternoons to enjoy each other's company, discuss their families, homes, fancy work and the happenings of those times.

One evening, by invitation, these women met at the home of Clara Gardner. Six or seven were present. The evening proved so pleasant that they decided to meet again, each bringing another friend. The second meeting drew ten or twelve ladies. The organizational meeting was held Sept. 16, 1912.

## Community Concerts

Hoopeston Community Concert Association, a non-profit organization, was chartered in 1965 for the purpose of providing its members an opportunity to hear and see acknowledged artists performing in the hometown and thus developing an interest and appreciation of good music.

Following some preliminary work an organizational meeting was held on June 22, 1965 where the officers were elected.

The membership drive for 1965-66 season produced a membership of 551 persons with a total revenue of \$4,531.50. Four concerts were offered in the first concert season, all of which were received with warm appreciation.

Since then the following public-spirited citizens have served with Hoopeston Community Concert Association as presidents: Mrs. Eugene Kosyak, 1966-67; Mrs. Joseph Moore II, 1967-68; Mr. Herbert Shoufler, 1968-69; and Mrs. Martha Samples, 1969-70.



# Hoopeston Lions Club

The history of the Hoopeston Lions Club is, indeed, a history of civic dedication . . . chartered January 7, 1942 and in continuous operation since that time.

Dan Thrasher is the sole Charter Monarch . . . having been a member for the past 29 years.

25 year members include Harold MacMurray, George Arnholt, and Eldon Yarbrough.

20 year members include Earl Smock, Bill Nelson.

15 year members include Art Pearson.

10 year members include Dale Brown, Robert W. Brown, William Burtis, Harold Cox, Ed Eells, Carl Franklin, Ralph Lloyd, Tom Mills, Bill Schuler, Ray Stipp and Vern Terry.

The Hoopeston club has had four officers of Multiple District 1E. They were D. B. Hawthorne, Deputy District Governor; Art Pearson, Deputy District Governor; Earl Smock, District Governor and William Burtis, Deputy District Governor.

Past presidents of the Hoopeston Lions Club include J. Cleveland, Roberts Snively, Art Richaz, Art Murray, Lyman Heavenridge, W. H. Perleberg, Abe Brockway, Werner Fliesser, Donald B. Hawthorne, Evar Olson, Jared Lyons, Harold MacMurray, Eldon Yarbrough, Art Pearson, Jim Frazier, Bill Nelson, J. Ed Holt, Earl Smock, Herb French, Don King, Robert Pittman, Tom Mills, Harlan Hatfield, Bob Shuler, Harold Cox, Ed Eells, Troy Blayd, Ray Stipp, Vern Terry, William Burtis, C. E. Franklin, Robert W. Brown.

Longest perfect attendance record belongs to Harold MacMurray . . . 25 years.

**CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY** — During the past ten years the Lions have been most active in their physical and financial support of many civic projects. They have . . . constructed a new \$4,000 concession stand for McFerrer Park; instituted, with the cooperation of other civic clubs, the Hoopeston Beautification Program which included the placing of flower pots on Main Street and the selling at cost of maple shade trees; sponsored the Glaucoma Screening Unit in cooperation with the Illinois Society for the Prevention of Blindness; contributed financial aid to the erection of the "Welcome to Hoopeston" signs; later these signs were lighted by the Lions Club; donated a 3,000 watt generator to the Hoopeston Rescue Squad; AND the Lions were most proud to be the first civic club to purchase stock in the Hoopeston Centennial Corporation.

**HOOPESTON COMMUNITY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL** — One of the leading promoters of the Hoopeston Hospital, the Lions . . . held a street auction which showed a profit of \$1,940.00 for the hospital fund; further donated \$1,500.00 from their general fund as a pledge for the construction of the hospital; bought two wheel chairs for the use of patients; expended over \$4,000.00 during the past 8 years for nurses scholarships so that the young graduates can be helped in furthering their education to become registered nurses.

**YOUTH ACTIVITIES** — The Lions Club feels very strongly that the youth of Hoopeston must be encouraged, praised and helped in every manner possible . . . and in following this program, the Lions have . . . purchased and installed a \$1,500.00 scoreboard at the Glenn Brasel Field; built a baseball backstop at North Side Park; purchased playground equipment for all city parks; purchased 4-H calf raised by a Hoopeston area youngster at annual 4-H auction; sponsored a Little League team each year; donated \$1,254.00 to the Hoopeston high school band for new uniforms; held each year an athletic banquet honoring all Hoopeston high school athletes and cheerleaders; contributed money to the American Field Service program for exchange students; donated to the Children's Milk Fund; donated to the Hoopeston Athletic Boosters Club for the installation of practice basketball courts.

**SIGHT CONSERVATION** — Sight conservation being the prime goal of Lions International, the Hoopeston Lions Club, through the generous support of Hoopeston citizens during Candy Days, have donated several thousand dollars to . . . Leader Dogs for the Blind, who raise and train dogs for visually handicapped at no cost to the recipient; Hadley School for the

Blind, an educational institution providing blind instruction books and other educational material so that the blind person may be more self-sufficient; Camp Lions, a summer camp for visually handicapped children especially designed and managed for this youngster.

## Lights and Gas

Central Illinois Public Service Co. has been providing electric and natural gas service to Hoopeston residents since 1919, when it acquired the properties of the Hoopeston Gas and Electric Co.

The first electric lights in Hoopeston were installed in 1890 at the Hoopeston Canning Co. plant. Lines were extended from the plant to serve nearby residences from the canning company's generator. In 1891 the Hoopeston Electric Light Co. was organized to serve the town.

The Hoopeston Gas and Electric Co. was incorporated in 1906 and began supplying electricity in that year. In 1910, the utility began supplying manufactured gas to residents.

In 1919 CIPS purchased the Hoopeston Gas and Electric Co. and operated the property until 1924, when an electric transmission line from Paxton was placed in service. In 1933 a natural gas transmission main was extended to Hoopeston and the local gas plant was taken out of service.

When CIPS acquired the Hoopeston Gas and Electric Co., the annual usage per residential customer was about 200 kilowatt-hours and the average rate was 11 cents per kilowatt-hour.

### NIGHTTIME USE ONLY

This was in the era when electricity was still new to the average citizen and was used only for lights in the home at night. For this reason, most communities in those early days had electricity available to them only during the early evening hours.

There was no need for 24-hour service because there were no electric appliances in use — or for that matter — none was being manufactured for the public.

After the electric iron was invented, generating units began operating during daylight hours on Tuesdays, since most housewives washed clothes on Mondays and ironed them on Tuesdays.

### ELECTRIC SERVANTS MULTIPLY

As the years passed, more and more electrically operated work-saving devices were invented for use in homes, farms, businesses and industry. Electricity quickly became a servant depended upon by all of the people, 24 hours a day.

## Beta Beta Chapter

The first blossom in Epsilon Sigma Alpha's now-majestic garden burst into full bloom on September 13, 1929, at Jacksonville, Texas. Estelle Simpson was one of the organization's founders and it was at her home that the first meeting was held four decades ago. Like E.S.A. chapters today, the first members included successful business women and young matrons.

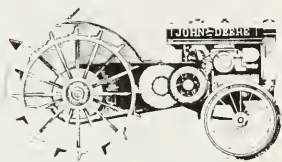
Beta Beta Chapter No. 947 was chartered on May 7, 1947 with nine members. The Charter members were Margaret Ellen Ford, Ruth Crow, Lonnette Griffin, Betti McNeil, Sue Leigh, Faye Matt, Elizabeth Chorney, Virginia Wood, and Fontella Fraley.

No other information could be found about the early years until 1956.

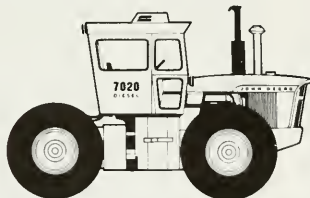


# CONGRATULATIONS TO HOOPESTON ON ITS CENTENNIAL

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It's all a matter of growth. The farmer today is in step with the ever-advancing agricultural arts . . . and John Deere is in step with the farmer. Realizing his needs, conscious of his view of future food production, and offering the tools and equipment he uses are just three reasons the John Deere franchise is the most valued in the industry:

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# Lovejoy Township

From History of Iroquois County Compiled by John Dowling

Lovejoy Township was first settled in the northern part of the township. The first building erected in the township was the "Red Pump," located on the Hubbard Trail or Chicago Road at the north edge of the township. A well was dug at this location, and a log pump inserted which was painted red. The well never failing to provide water, was much in demand whenever it was possible to drive teams and herds of cattle to Chicago. A tavern called "The Red Pump" was operated there in the early days, getting its name from the well pump. The township was sparsely settled in these early days.

Lovejoy Township was formerly a part of Milford Township lying directly to the south of that township and was bounded on the south by the county line of Iroquois and Vermilion counties. Lovejoy Township was established by a vote of its people at the first election held in April 1868. The petition for separation was signed by thirty voters and presented to the 1868 February term of the Board of Supervisors and was granted by that body.

At the first town meeting the people passed a resolution providing for a survey of all the lands in the township. The expenses of the survey were defrayed by a tax of so much per acre. On July 3, 1868 an election was held for the purpose of deciding whether financial aid would be given to the Chicago, Danville and Vincennes Railroad in the amount of \$3,000.00. The vote was 23 for and 3 against. Lovejoy Township, in addition to this amount, had assumed \$60,007.12 of the railroad indebtedness of Milford Township, which had been voted before the division of Milford Township. The people at first were quite enthusiastic about giving aid to the railroad company, but as time passed, their interest waned and there was considerable effort made to avoid payment of this indebtedness. However, good transportation was desperately needed for the movement of farm products to market, and the building of the railroad in 1871 had much to do with the settlement and growth of the area.

Prior to 1872, there was a small settlement of the town of Wellington approximately one-quarter mile east of the present downtown area of the village. After the railroad was constructed in 1871, Wellington, the only town in Lovejoy Township, was laid out in 1872 near the center of Section 14 with the business area being built adjacent to the railroad. In order to secure switches and a depot for the new town, J. L. Hamilton and R. T. Race each donated 40 acres of land to the Railroad Company. As a result of the location of the railroad and the laying out of the town, many businesses began to operate in order to supply the needs of the village area. Among them, in the early days, were grain elevators, a livestock yard, general merchandise stores, a drug store, hardware and implements business, lumber yard, harness shop, blacksmith shop, undertaker, lively stable, hotel, draying and many other businesses and services. Streets were laid out, houses built, local governmental units established and the village and township were well on the way to becoming a flourishing community.

For example, the principal business in Wellington in 1878-79 was the buying and shipping of grain. It was estimated that in 1879 21,000 bushels of flax seed was shipped as well as 375,000 bushels of corn.

In 1878 a church building was erected by the Methodists in what was then known as the southeast part of town, and cost \$1500. First services conducted in this building occurred after Christmas in the year 1878. In 1904 the Methodists constructed their present church building on East Main Street. Prior to 1900, the Presbyterians had a large church on East Main Street, located on the land which is now a part of the village park. Both churches thrived in the early part of this century, but eventually the congregation of the Presbyterian Church declined to such an extent that it was disbanded in approximately 1928.

John Greer, a prominent land owner in Prairie Green and Lovejoy Townships, upon his death on January 2, 1891, provided through his will that a bequest be made to Lovejoy Township. He directed that a town hall be erected for the sum of \$2,000 and that an additional sum of \$2,000 be given to the township with the income from this amount to be used for the maintenance of the

building. In 1894 the town hall was built, a brick building 66 ft. x 22 ft. containing an auditorium and stage. For many years officials of the village and township have used it as their headquarters and as a polling place. It was used extensively for the first twenty-five or thirty years for many events such as school plays, social activities, for the community, and for traveling shows of various kinds. But as newer, modern school buildings were constructed, many of the community's activities were transferred to the larger building. A Fire Protection District, composed of Lovejoy and Prairie Green Townships was organized in 1954, and a new Fire Department Building was constructed in 1955. Since then, the polling place for Lovejoy Township has been located in this new building and meetings of the township and village have been transferred from the old Town Hall to the newer building. The cash bequest left for the maintenance of the town hall is still intact and invested, but the town hall has long ceased to be the center of the community activities.

After the first settlers of the land arrived in this area, it became necessary to provide schools for the children. Usually, every four sections of land comprised a school district which



Post Office and General Store on the north side of Main Street in Wellington, Illinois taken in 1919.

supported a one-room school house.

In the village of Wellington a large, square, frame school building was erected, probably around the year 1881, which served until 1930. The old building had two school rooms on each of two floors, and at the time seemed more than adequate. There are many in the community who attended school in this building, and no doubt, remember it as being a larger building than it actually was. In 1930 the School Board, composed of Alta Lockhart, Van Benbow, and Perry Parrish, supervised the construction of a new brick building with gymnasium which still serves as headquarters for the third, fourth, fifth, and sixth grades.

A high school building was erected in 1915 with a basement gymnasium and served the community well for many years. Interest in basketball was high during the 20's and 30's, and some very fine teams represented Wellington in area competition. In 1941 a very large and modern gymnasium was built as an addition to the original building.

In the late 30's and early 40's much discussion was held in regard to the discontinuance of the one-room school buildings. This consolidation was accomplished, and bus transportation of pupils to a central point became necessary. In 1947, consolidation of schools became popular and the territory of Prairie Green and Lovejoy Townships banded together into a one-unit school district. The one-room school houses soon disappeared, and a new grade school building was erected at Greer in Prairie Green Township. This building now accommodates the first and second grades for the entire school district.

Prior to 1920, the township roads were taken care of through the help of farmers who worked in their spare time with teams, wagons, and scoops. The township itself also used graders with



## Lovejoy Township

steam engines to pull these machines. In the 20's rock was shipped in by railroad car, and those persons owning teams and gravel wagons were paid to unload the cars and transport the material to various roads. In 1936 a sizeable bond issue was passed, and for the first time every farmer had access to an improved gravel road to market.

In 1919 the Dixie Highway was constructed and a hard road was built to connect Wellington with the new highway. This road to town embraced the full length of Main Street to the east edge of town. In constructing this road, a cement mixer, propelled by steam power, was used. In order to provide water for this steam operation and for the cement mixing, a pipe was laid along side of the road to a nearby creek. A narrow gauge railroad track was built from the town to the road building site, and material was hauled for road building by small freight cars.

About 1881 a railroad spur from the main line was constructed from a point about one and three-fourths miles north of town in a westerly direction to serve the towns of Alonzo, Hickman, Goodwine, Claytonville, and Cissna Park. A train accommodating both passengers and freight made two round trips a day from Cissna Park. This train did a considerable amount of switching at all points along the way and served a useful purpose for many years. Many high school students living along this new line rode the train to attend high school at Wellington.

A large hotel in Wellington operated until 1920. It had twenty-five rooms and catered to salesmen and others who came to town on business. These early-day salesmen, in order to cover territory not served by railroads, hired teams and buggies from the livery stable to make their selling trips to nearby towns.

The village had street lights in the early days, using first kerosene lamps; later gas lights were used, and finally in 1920 electricity became available to everyone.

Lovejoy Township as a township was eligible to observe its 100th Anniversary in April of 1968.

## Fountain Creek Township

From History of Iroquois County  
Compiled by John Dowling

Fountain Creek Township is the center of the southern tier of townships in Iroquois County and is bordered on the south by Vermilion County. Lovejoy is on the east, Ash Grove township on the north and Pigeon Grove on the west.

The town of Fountain Creek was created following a petition signed by twenty or more legal voters of the town of Ash Grove. The County board of Supervisors heard the petition. After legal posting of notice including legal description of the area to be included, all preambles, the resolution was adopted by the board on Tuesday, September 15, 1868.



Depot and grain elevator in Goodwine, Illinois in 1900. This is the oldest Farmer's Elevator in Illinois that has been in continuous use and still is in 1971.



General store in Claytonville, Illinois. This building was destroyed by fire in 1920.

These pioneers used every effort to establish schools, churches, government, and improved roads. One by one churches were established, moved, and united. The present United Brethren Church of Claytonville, was dedicated December 21, 1912; the new Apostolic Christian Church was dedicated October 23, 1949; Goodwine Methodist Church, the oldest one in the area, was dedicated in 1872 and has been added to and improved over the years.

Earliest history mentioned numerous one-room schools—Burden School, Judy School, Carey School, Leemon School, Rudd, Fountain Creek, and Goodwine School which was established in 1884 and continued in use until 1960 when its closing made Iroquois County one of the first in Illinois to abandon all one-room schools. The school districts have all been absorbed into consolidated districts outside the township.

The first post office, established by the United States Postal Department on November 23, 1874, in the home of Jehu Judy, was given the name Seemly. The mail was brought by post rider from Wellington. The old post office records kept by Mr. Judy show it was closed at the end of the first quarter, March 31, 1883, following completion of the railroad branch. Post offices were established in Goodwine and Claytonville with mail coming in by train.

The building of the Wellington to Cissna Park branch of the C & E I railroad opened transportation in 1882 and was a great asset for shipment of agricultural products to market. Then in 1903 when the Woodland to St. Louis line was opened from north to south, additional transportation facilities were provided.

The greatest resources of this township are agricultural products. There is excellent farmland, fine dairy and beef herds, hogs and sheep. Grain farming has developed over the years, and with it the establishment of elevators and grain companies to meet the needs of grain farming.

At present there are three elevators in operation—Fountain Creek, Claytonville, and Goodwine. This last named grain company is the oldest Farmers' Elevator in the state of Illinois that has been in continuous operation since it was organized and incorporated in 1889.

The once-swamp prairie land has been tilled by the owners and drainage districts established. The general slope of the land is toward the north, with very little timber except a small belt along the streams. The stream from which the township derived its name was once called Bussing Creek, but one of the earliest settlers not liking the name changed it to Fountain Creek, and since it has remained.

William Goodwine, for whom the village of Goodwine was named, owned at one time around one thousand acres of land in the area. He was active in organizing the township government and served in some offices in it.

William Clayton, for whom the village of Claytonville was named, owned many acres of land as well as an elevator in Claytonville.

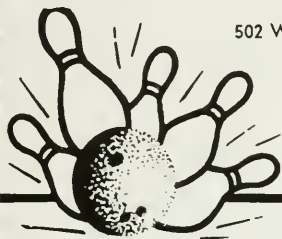


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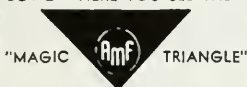


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**WHOLESALE**



# Prairie Green Township

From History of Iroquois County    Compiled by John Dowling

Prairie Green Township is located in the southeast corner of Iroquois County. No creeks or rivers transverse this township; the north fork of the Vermilion River cuts off the southeast corner, and just north of this fork is a ridge. The water on the south flows south toward the Wabash River.

The early settlers chose this high ground to take up residence, the first settlers coming in the early 1850's. Robert Finch came and settled in the southeast part of the township in 1853. Also at about the same time, Abner Mitchell, Kendall Shankland, R. Adsit, and Mr. Pixley settled.

Prairie Green was at first a part of Crab Apple Township, now Stockland. The legal division took place in the winter of 1858. Kendall Shankland, Robert Finch, H. C. Smith, and a few others were the leading men in obtaining the independence of Crab Apple and forming Prairie Green.

The very first settlers in the county settled near the streams and timbers. Few pioneers were brave enough to squat out on the prairies because many thought then that the prairies would never be completely settled. The few that came found that deer were so plentiful that they were never without venison. The settlers that lived here would mount a horse bareback and indulge in the invigorating sports of chasing wolves or running down a deer.

In 1857 John Greer began to break sod in the southwest corner, although he did not live there until some years afterward. Breaking sod in those days was a good business for the favored few who owned a "breaking" plow. Designed for five or six oxen, the breaker was a large plow cutting a furrow from twenty inches to two feet. The depth was regulated by a lever, and considerable skill was needed when starting the first furrow, often a half mile or more in length.

As soon as the first grass began to appear in the spring, the season for plowing began and did not end until July. Such large farmers as Finch and Shankland had one or more of these breaking plows running. After doing their own work, they would break for their neighbors, charging three to four dollars per acre.

The teams were allowed to feed on the grasses they were plowing under, usually being "coralled" after dark to prevent straying. No one had the idea that the prairie sod could be plowed with horses. This was the reason that the prairies were not settled more rapidly at first. As soon as it was discovered that two or three horses with a ten or twelve-inch plow could turn nearly as much as an ox team, the prairies were soon dotted with little shanties and neat cottages and the era of real improvement began.

The first road was the old Attica road, running in a northwest direction toward Milford. This road had to go around ponds, sloughs, and marshes; therefore, the road ran along the higher ground.

John Greer owned about 1000 acres in this township. When he died, in honor of his son, he willed the money for the erection of Greer college in Hoopston as well as an endowment of land to maintain it. In addition, he left money for the erection of Greer Hall at the cross road of the township. A sum of money was left, the interest of which was to maintain the building. Greer Hall was erected in 1893. This was the voting precinct until a few years ago when it was torn down and replaced by a consolidated grade school. A fire station, erected across the road from it, is used as the township building.

There have never been any stores or post office in the limits of Prairie Green. A railroad transversing the township north and south in the center of the township, was built in the early 1900's. Formerly the Wabash Railroad, it is now known as the Milwaukee Road.

Among the early settlers were J. Crawford Pugh, a blacksmith, and a miller whose mill was located in the east part of the township near the Finch place. Horse power was used to grind corn. He conceived the idea of making a huge wheel to be

turned by the wind. He gathered all the men available to raise it. It was successful for a while, but, because of the uncertainty of the wind, it was a failure. He also kept a small stock of groceries. The place acquired the quaint name of Goose Nibble.

Much flax was raised in the early days. In 1870 Samuel Hazel, who owned a lot of land in the southwest corner of the township, raised 1000 bushels of flax seed. Upon delivery of the flax to Danville, he received two dollars a bushel. Agriculture and stock raising have always been the chief industries in the township.

While speaking of industries in this area, mention must be made of a broom factory of Robert Finch in the southeast part of the township. His son, Fremont, was superintendent of the working force. The low price of broom corn induced Mr. Finch to try manufacturing. Out of his crop in 1879 he made about 350 dozen brooms. An expert broom maker, he made his own machine.

Prairie Green township in the early days was in the front rank among educational interests of the county. In 1858 the township was organized into four districts. Prairie Green and Lamont School buildings were built soon afterward. Round Top a few years later. Round Top became more famous than all the others as here so many organizations were organized. Also the First Church of Christ and the Methodist Churches had their first meetings. Round Top stood where the William Gurley home now stands. It got its name because at a distance the roof had a round appearance. The building was octagonal in shape as was the roof.

The Prairie Green Quadrille Band, organized in 1879, consisted of 12 instruments: three first violins, two second violins, three German flutes, two flageolets, and two violoncellos. The leader was R. G. Cowan; treasurer, H. W. Cowan; and secretary, R. N. Benholm.

Later in the 1870's, there were seven school districts. Round Top was replaced with Maple Grove about a mile northeast. There were also Victor, Prairie Green, Willow Brook, College Center, (nicknamed Frog Pond) Lamont, and Pleasant Hill. Old records which were found in these schoolhouses reveal that school convened in September and closed during the month of November, December, January, and February, the winter term, enabled older pupils to attend. Some were twenty-one years old. Often there were as many as sixty attending. The spring term of April, May, and June was attended mostly by the younger ones. Only one school house now replaces the old ones built in 1950. The new school house now stands where the old John Greer Hall stood and is used for the two first grades of Prairie Green and Lovejoy Townships. All other grades, including high school, go to Wellington.

The religious history of Prairie Green is perhaps similar to all other communities of the area. A Methodist class was formed at Abner Mitchell's home early in 1858. There was preaching around at the homes, but after the school houses were built, meetings were held in them. Every winter revivals of great interest would take place in these school houses. A Sunday School was organized in 1878 at the Maple Grove School. J. W. Dixon was superintendent for a number of years, M. Garrison, secretary. In the early 1880's the Pleasant Hill Methodist Church was constructed. A small society of United Brethren met in the Willow Brook school. The Prairie Green Church of Christ, organized about 1858, met at first in homes, at Round Top, and in 1875 a building, costing approximately one thousand dollars, was erected on section 12. It was known at that time as the Hope Church of Christ but later was changed to the Prairie Green Church of Christ. The old school houses are gone and the Pleasant Hill Church closed in 1964. Instead of the old Hope Church of Christ, a new Prairie Green Church of Christ was erected near the crossroads at Greer. This building, costing \$103,000, was dedicated July 6, 1958.



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wonderful town.

## *Hoopeston Lions Club*

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viding the most modern  
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1916 by  
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Tuesday,  
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# Pigeon Grove Township

From History of Iroquois County  
Compiled by John Dowling

Pigeon Grove Township is bounded on the north by Ash Grove and on the south by Ford and Vermilion counties. Pigeon Grove was the last township in Iroquois County to be organized, in the year 1876.

It has always been a guess as to why this area was so long overlooked. It was not unknown because many different cattle raisers grazed their herds on the rich prairie grass and then drove them to Chicago or sent them by train to other places. The area lay between Fountain Creek Township and Loda Township. An Indian trail which was a much traveled route ran through it from Blue Grove to Spring Creek at Buckley, a distance of 25 miles. The Illinois Central Railroad, which was finished through Illinois in September 1856, became interested in this area and helped to develop this township at this time.

Because of the keen business interests of the railroad, a plan was evolved which brought cattle raisers into a mutual agreement by which large herds of cattle were brought to Loda and Buckley, unloaded and allowed to graze on the railroad right of way until they were ready for market, then reloaded and sent into Chicago by I. C. Railroad. This plan worked for some time, and if the cattle invaded other property, there was no special fuss made about it. These cattle came from Texas and Oklahoma, or Indian Territory, as it was then called. This plan worked until a disease called Spanish Fever broke out among the Texas cattle. Many died and it spread to the cattle belonging to the farmers around this area. This loss of cattle greatly concerned the farmers, and legal help was employed. They were successful in stopping the shipment of cattle to this area by interstate legal intervention. Soon things settled down and local farmers pastured their cattle wherever it seemed most convenient.

Then a firm named Milk, Burchard and Taylor, from Indiana bought 1700 head of cattle in Louisiana. This state had not been excluded in the interstate legal battle which was supposed to be settled. The cattle were unloaded at Loda and grazed on the Illinois Central right of way as well as in the Pigeon Grove area. This time a disease called Milk Fever again attacked the cattle, and the local cattle began to die. There was consternation followed by fights and battles and legal proceedings. The local people hired Addison Goodell of Loda and John A. Koplin of Buckley to represent them. Mr. Milk came with Attorney T. P. Bonfield of Kankakee to represent him. There were many claims and Mr. Milk tried to pay them all. There were even claims where cattle never were owned. The "Cattle War" was a long tradition in that area and ended the importation of foreign cattle and also ended a certain discontent and disagreement locally.

All this time William Cissna, who came to this area in 1866 and who with his brother Stephen had bought 1200 acres of land in the Pigeon Grove area, was feeding about 700 cattle a year besides about 500 hogs. He was interested in the area and helped to organize this territory into a township. He gave his support but he never wanted any part of politics. In 1875 a petition was signed by 100 persons to organize a new township between Loda and Fountain Creek Townships. Supervisor Carey presented the petition but it was turned down.

Another petition was filed asking that the new township be named Grange, but it too was turned down. Finally another petition with 130 names and one from Fountain Creek Township signed by 62 members requested the new township be named Pigeon Grove. William Flemming and Moses Stroup worked hard to get the petition granted and it was finally granted in 1876.

The first election was held in Zion school. William Flemming was the first supervisor; Clark Martin, clerk; J. W. Gosslee, assessor; Myron Cunningham, collector; J. W. Gosslee and Moses Stroup, justices of the peace.

The name of Pigeon Grove was given because of the many pigeons that inhabited the grove. There were hundreds of them

and branches could be heard breaking with loads of them. The township was soon divided into farms, and in 1881 William Cissna who had been working to bring a branch railroad to this area tried the Illinois Central. They refused to consider his proposal. Then he with two businessmen and cattle raisers, William Clayton and William Goodwine went to the Chicago and Eastern Illinois Railroad. They must have pleaded their case very effectively, for their request was granted. The branch was built in the northeast corner of the township, and on January 1, 1881, the silver spike was driven in.

The next day activities began, and William "Uncle Bill" Cissna proceeded to build his town. The plat was made—a lot allowed for a park right in the center of town. The hotel with thirty rooms was started on the east corner of Second Street and Garfield Avenue. This was to be his home and he called it the Park House. He lived there until his death in 1897. Before this he had lived in the first house built in the grove. The lumber for the house was brought from Chicago by his brother, Stephen, who lived there. It is still standing in the small grove east of Route 49, south of the town and belongs to the Farney family.

The first building to be completed was a restaurant on the corner of Koplin Avenue and Third Street. Koplin Avenue was named for John A. Koplin of Buckley who was Mr. Cissna's banker.



Park House Hotel which was located north of the Cissna Park State Bank in Cissna Park.

The next building to be finished was the store building on the corner of Second and Garfield streets. This building was erected by Isaac Miller Hamilton and Tunis Young, both coming from Ash Grove Township. They ran a successful general store and after a few years decided to start a bank. With the help of Uncle Bill Cissna and his patronage the business became a big success. Other businesses started: Sylvester Rose erected a hardware store that still stands and is the Masonic Hall now; an elevator was built across from the depot. It was the first one and was built by James Busey. Business was on the way.

In the meantime the township was being settled. Owing to the proximity of the Lake Erie and Western Railroad that ran from Peoria to Tipton, Indiana, travel was convenient and brought from the Peoria area, Morton, and Gridley a clan of immigrants from Germany, France, Switzerland and Ireland. Many of them were Mennonites and brought their customs with them. Land was cheap and the new comers were frugal and knew how to work. Their limited European way of life had trained them to be frugal. The ponds were drained. A tile factory built in 1884 by George Songer made tile from a clay pit on the west end of the village. It was a big business: twenty men were employed, rolling the mud into tiles and then burning them in kilns for 48 hours. There was a great demand for them, and often wagons would be lined up a half mile to get their turn at a load. Eventually the clay was exhausted and another pit was dug south of



# Ross Township and Rossville

## from "History Under Our Feet"

Most accounts of the founding of Rossville speak of how the pioneers moved north into the area attracted by the good timber and prairie lands. The crossroads of the Chicago road with one from Attica to Paxton seemed an ideal place to establish a village. The North Fork of the Vermilion River ran just west of the chosen spot.

In 1829, John Liggett came to the vicinity and built a place where travelers often stopped, but he did not call the building a hotel. The area was first named Liggett's Grove, in his honor.

Nine years later Alvan Gilbert, who had moved into the northern limits of what became the town of Rossville, purchased the Liggett farm. The next year a post office called North Fork was established, and Gilbert became postmaster. Once the mail which was brought by stagecoach from Danville was delayed for six weeks because of high water. Mr. Gilbert called in some men to help him sort and distribute the mail—which proved to be one letter.

The township, and later the town, got its name from Jacob Ross, who once owned a water mill on East Fork. For a while Ross Mill was the only store in the vicinity and became a meeting place of the scattered residents for visitation and matters of public interest. There was a move to name the new township North Fork, as that was the name of the first post office, but the majority voted for the name of Ross. The name might have been Rio; from 1838 to 1842 mail for the area was distributed from Rio, a place just south of Hoopeston.

Although the only official names of the village were Liggett's Grove and later Rossville, for a time the very descriptive name of Henpeck was used. No one seems to know why.

About two miles north of Liggett's Grove on the North Fork Stream, George and William Bicknell established a homestead, and then, as traffic increased along Hubbard's Trail, they erected Bicknell Inn in 1845. Tradition says that Abraham Lincoln was a patron of Bicknell House.

The Trail was a way to get the hogs, turkeys, and other livestock of the community to market in Chicago. Hogs were kept until they were fat enough not to run away but not fat enough to butcher because if they were too fat they could not stand the trip to Chicago. Turkeys were driven to market. Each night they would go to roost in the trees while the men camped on the ground and waited until morning.

The coming of the railroad brought many more settlers into the region, and Ross Township was divided in 1862 into two parts. There was a move to call the north part Lyon, but the secretary of state reported there was already a Lyon township in Cook County, so the citizens selected the name of Grant. This is supposed to be the first honor to the then little-known U.S. Grant. The southern part became Ross. Much later, in 1925, because of bickering between neighboring villages, another division was made so that today a new township, South Ross, is separated from the area about the city of Rossville.

## Other Towns in Grant

Near Burr Oak Grove, just north of Cheneyville, stands a stone marker which was on the trail from Williamsport to Chicago. This is the only land mark left of the time when Indians and pioneers roved the vast prairie land.

Five miles east of Hoopeston, Cheneyville was founded in 1871 and laid out in lots in 1880. It was named for Mr. J. H. Cheney, vice president of the Lake Erie and Western Railroad.

In the history of other towns we read how some land owner gave land so that a railroad would pass through the town in which he lived. In Cheneyville the men also gave work. Tade Layden donated two days' work; James Swaner helped haul

the tile plant. This was exhausted and after the factory burned down, Mr. Songer who had been the first mayor and a very respected citizen, moved to Hoopeston with his family. Later they went to Texas and made tile there.

Cattle raising still continued, and flax, oats, and corn were the principal crops. Flax was soon discontinued because it took too much strength from the soil. Schools were built. Cissna Park built a two-room school, followed later by a brick school, and in 1940 by a Community high school.

The Young and Hamilton Bank remained in business. Mr. Hamilton studied Law under Attorney Free P. Morris of Watska and became an attorney. Later he was State Representative. When Mr. Cissna died, Isaac Miller Hamilton was appointed his executor with his bond set at \$500,000. Since there were no bonding companies then, he went through the district to get all the signatures he could on his bond, and thirty-seven farmers signed it.

In 1904 the Young and Hamilton bank sold to the Amsler Brothers, Clyde and Art, of Broadlands. They were here only a short time when they sold the bank to E. L. Weise of Broadlands. He brought with him Sam O. Brown as cashier. Mr. Brown, Supervisor of the township for a number of years, was influential in bringing State Highway 49 through the village. The bank closed during the depression but was brought back into business by the Fredericks, a family of Paxton. Other supervisors were Joe Burt, Dr. W. R. Roberts, Albert Zbinden, and Aaron Bauer since 1945.

The township has many rich farms. The buildings are well kept, the land is well taken care of, and although it was the last to be organized, its resources are tops in the county. Land that was bought from the government for \$2 an acre now sells up to \$700 per acre. The revenue gained from sales tax always rates above any other town of the same size anywhere.

The railroad still carries out much of the grain as well as trucks. Livestock is being raised to a greater extent than it was twenty-five years ago, and many of the smaller farms are being merged into larger ones.

Churches play an important part in the community's welfare. The Apostolic Christian Church, which is the largest located in Fountain Creek township, holds a membership of over 400 members, and the majority of rural people have built this church. The Union Church has stood on the corner of Church and Third Streets since 1891 and is inter-denominational. Other churches include the Methodist Church on the corner of Fourth and Koplin, the Lutheran Church on Fourth Street, and the Christian Apostolic on Garfield.



Main Street in Cissna Park, Illinois in 1899. The man in the buggy is the late Dr. W. R. Roberts.



## Other Towns in Grant

ties. Thus began the village of Cheneyville.

Telephones came to Cheneyville in 1888, and soon the system had to be enlarged. Everyone wanted a telephone. The new instrument replaced the old telegraphs which had been placed in the bank for use during the day and at the newspaper office for the night. Townspeople had placed them there to make it easier to call a doctor. The school was built in 1885 but is closed now, as children attend school in Hoopeston.

One former resident of the village will be remembered for words she penned. Ina Duley Ogdon, writer of many hymns, advised countless Sunday school students to "brighten the corner where you are."

An old scrap book contains this about one of the early citizens of Cheneyville:

"There's Zachariah Fetters,

A man of great renown,

Who runs a little blacksmith shop

In the northern part of town.

He also keeps a boarding house,

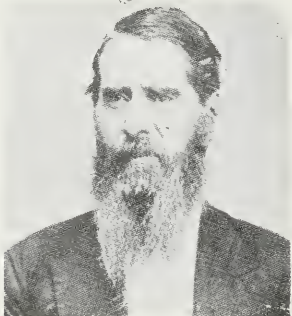
And his meals are all in style;

And while he has his troubles,

He greets you with a smile."

Prospect City once existed east of Hoopeston. It was laid out by a Chicago surveyor for Janet Taft, a relative of President William Howard Taft, in 1857. Ransome Murdock, William Pells, and Leander Britt were the first settlers, and the first industry was the distilling of whiskey. The town died a slow death in 1880.

Weaver City was platted for George Weaver on his farm east of Cheneyville in 1872, but that is about all there is to the history of the village.



Alvan Gilbert, founder of Alvin, born 1810.

## Prospect City

Prospect City was laid out by Ransom R. Murdock, William H. Pells, Leander Britt, Benjamin Sites and Dryden Donnelly. This village was located on the south half of the southwest quarter of section 8, the northeast quarter of section 18, N., 20 acres of the west one half of the northwest quarter of section 17, and the southeast quarter of section 7, and the west half (less twenty acres of north end) of the northwest quarter of section 17, lying in township 23, N. of R. 10 E. of the 3rd Principal Meridian. The plat of this village was recorded July 31, 1857. (Near the Indiana State line where route 9 is located today)

## Weaver City

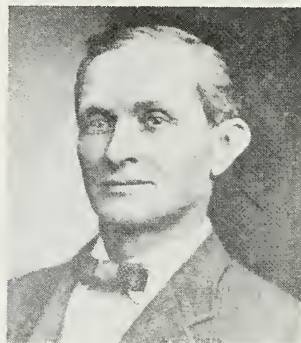
A city which came into being and disappeared without a history, was laid out by George Weaver where the L. B. & M. railroad crosses the Indiana line. The town plat was recorded and afterward vacated, and consisted of four blocks on the north half of section 6 (23-10).

## Rankin

If the outcome of a quarrel had been different when the town was founded, Rankin probably would have been located west of its present site. The dispute which began in 1872 between W. H. Pells and W. A. Rankin concerned the location of a Lake Erie and Western Railroad station. Pells was a member of the board of directors, and Rankin was a wealthy landowner. The solution was that two stations were built, one at Rankin and one at Pellsville about one and a half miles west. The citizens of Pellsville raised \$3,500 to get their depot, but when the narrow gauge railroad went into the hands of a receiver, Rankin won the long battle. It was Pells who laid out the town in 1888.

Under Rankin's leadership his town grew and won the contest for the post office location. Pellsville declined and gradually became a ghost town.

For many years Rankin was a railroad town. The L E & W (later the Nickel Plate) located shops there. However, in 1932 the shops moved to Frankfort, Indiana, and some of the town's citizens went also.



W. A. Rankin

## Gilbert

It was in 1872 that a station was made on the Chicago & Danville Railroad a mile south of the present site of Alvin. This was named for the progressive citizen of that part of the country called Gilbert. L. T. Dixon laid out the town of Gilbert on section 8 (21-11) and Bruce Peters and D. McKibben started a store. Peters was made postmaster. John Davison afterwards bought it and put in a stock of dry goods. Dr. G. W. Akers started the drug business in 1875 and remained there a year, when the narrow gauge road made a crossing a mile to the north and the post office, station, stores and all moved to this point. Gilbert became an abandoned town, but the new town built in its place must be named. So great was the appreciation of his neighbors for Mr. Gilbert that his name was kept for the other town, and it was called Alvin. Now Mr. Gilbert always persisted in the spelling of his given name with an "a" and the devotion of those who named the new town went to the extent of spelling it in the same way. The post office department knew how to spell and refused to accept this spelling, but spelled the town "Alvin". So it is that this town in Vermilion County has the spelling of Alvan as a railroad station and of Alvin as a post office. Anyone can give either spelling as he may choose and be correct. Alvan Gilbert had lived in this neighborhood for ten years and had large land interests there, and if he demoralized the orthography of the community, it is too late a day to make any change. Mr. Gilbert was the man who made a settlement at the site of Rossville, possibly in 1862. That was the date of his coming to this place, which was then called Henpeck, the reason for which is unknown. This included the settlement made first by Mr. Bicknell in the earlier history of the country. There was a point of timber running into the prairie at this place where Mr. Bicknell had settled.



# East Lynn

"East Lynn Tonight" was a sign that drew theater-goers for years. The play was based on a novel written by Mrs. Anna Stephens. The name of the novel—and play—is perpetuated in Vermilion County by a small village, founded in 1872.

In East Lynn, Henry Ludden was the first station agent, the first postmaster, the first to operate a store. The first business was a hotel which burned in 1911.

The grain business became the backbone of the economy of the village, and the East Lynn Methodist Church became the center of religious and social life.

The church was founded in 1869. Three years after the village was incorporated the people built the first church building. In 1914 they moved into their present building.



East Lynn Public School, built in 1915

## Butler Township

Butler Township was separated from the rest of Middlefork Township in 1840 and named for "Old" General Benjamin F. Butler, "cock-eyed hero of the Civil War."

## THE FIRST HOTEL

The first Hotel was built in Leed's addition (Hoopeston's West Side) at a cost of \$7,700.00. The hotel has 21 sleeping rooms, each with stove and furniture, the name was The Hibbard House.

Feb. 1, 1872: A Wolf was chased thru the streets by R. McCracken. He cornered the wolf or visa versa and before long there were 6 mounted men giving chase. One man was on a donkey and he was armed with a pitch-fork. The howling wolf was finally driven away by the shouts and shots of the men.

July 4, 1872: There is a private dancing party tonite on the North Side. Fire works this evening. The Soda fountain is going full blast at the Union Depot and a great quantity of cakes were baked by Spoor & Tucker. Hoopeston's baseball team was beaten by Danville's team on July 4, 1872.

May 15, 1873: Mr. Spinning will spare no pains to make the post office commodious and creditable, and we feel sure it will compare favorably with others of higher rank.

NOTE: The Chronicle building was on the corner of Main and Bank Streets. The Chronicle was on the second floor over the Union Bakery. Apparently the post office moved into some location on the first floor.

It is evident that the postmaster, Mr. Spinning was involved in other activities and used the post office as his personal office. Advertisements were carried in the newspaper stating that he sold books of all kinds, notions, toys, pictures, and frames, stationary, initial paper, envelopes, writing desks, etc. One such advertisement was published in the April 17th issue of the North Vermilion Chronicle—1873.

## Lost City Names

It was in 1871 that Hoopeston was laid out. The fight over the possession of the site by the two companies who were building the two railroads was a bitter one and ended in the platting of three towns: Hoopeston laid out in July where Main street is now; Leeds laid out where later the Hibbard House was built, and North Hoopeston comprised all the land north and west of the railroad. The first town was platted in the spring of 1871, the next was platted in November of that year, and the third was platted in the same year. A great factor in the growth of Hoopeston was the organization of the Hoopeston Agricultural Society. This was formed in 1873 and the stock was fixed at \$5,000, and afterward raised to \$10,000.

The Hoopeston Library and Lecture Association was organized in December 30, 1872, and Hon. Lyford Marston elected president. After the car shops of the Eastern Illinois Railroad were built near the junction, the demand for an incorporated village of the territory lying to the northeast of that locality. A petition was filed in the county court June 25, 1874, asking the court to direct the holding of an election to vote for or against village incorporation, setting forth that there were over 400 people living within said limits. The petition contained the names of sixty voters who lived within said limits. The petition was granted and an election was called for July 6, 1874. At this election there were thirty-one votes cast, thirty for and one against the incorporation. An election was held on July 31 for six trustees to perfect the organization. At this election there were thirty-four votes cast. In 1875 there were sixty-one votes cast. When the village was incorporated the people living there were largely Germans, but that did not last long, since the working men who have come into the shops are by no means all Germans, and other nationalities find their way to this village. While the employment of its citizens were men who had little farms and truck patches, there were conditions which attracted the German settler who remained the German all his life. Thus "Hoopeston won out and "Leeds" and "North Hoopeston" lost their titles.

## Streets(1904)

"Great pressure is being brought to bear upon the local board to order the paving of Lincoln street from Euclid avenue west to Fifth avenue. While the board had not yet reached a decision on its street, it is likely to be ordered. This string of pavement will be a little more than a mile long."

"Work is already in progress on Market street from McCracken avenue north to the city limits, and on Seminary avenue from Market street east to the city limits. These two pavements are just a fraction short of one mile in length.

"Counting the pavement already laid, which is fully six and three-quarters miles long; the pavement already decided upon, and the pavement which is likely to be laid, we will have an aggregate of eleven miles, as follows:

Pavement already laid	6¾ miles
Pavement being laid, short	1 miles
Pavement decided upon	2¼ miles
Pavement in prospect, long	1
Total	11 miles

"It is safe to say that not another town of five thousand inhabitants in the State of Illinois, possibly not in the world, has eleven miles of street pavement. And possibly no other town in the world needed it so badly. However that may be, it is also certain that in no other town is the pavement tax paid so willingly, for it has been demonstrated time and again that the money paid for street paving is the most profitable real estate investment possible to make, yielding a larger and more certain profit than any other investment. Possibly the cost of the pavement seems a little bit heavy just at the time, but the system of dividing it into ten equal annual payments makes it come easy. People who were not fixed well financially, and who have paid out on pavements already laid, unite in saying that, while they were opposed to the pavement when it was first suggested, and did all in their power to prevent it, they are now glad it was put in, and would not have taken up for twice its cost laid down all in one lump in cold cash."



*Our Ancestors first broke this soil. . .*

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the farmer relied

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Not So TODAY!

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provide the

"stretch"



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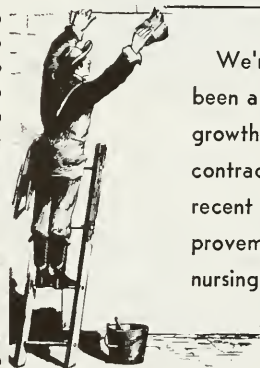
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is done to  
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. . . and still growing!*



We're happy to have  
been a part of Hoopeston's  
growth as general  
contractor for the  
recent school im-  
provements and hospital  
nursing home addition.

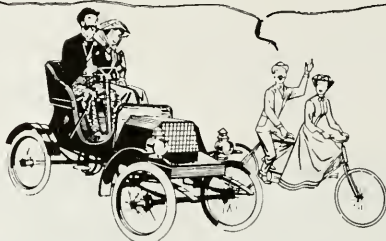
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GENERAL CONTRACTOR

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"We're goin' down to SEARS to pick up  
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been a SEARS-ROEBUCK & Co.

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Since 1917



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continued to serve for 54 years!

## TROOP B

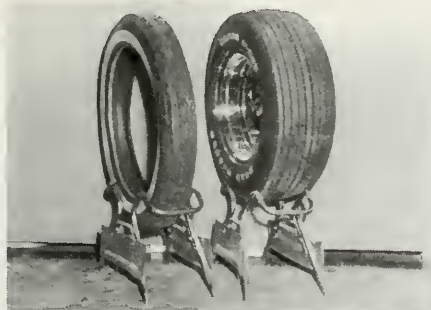
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WAS ON THIS HOOPESTON HOME IN 1894....

In excellent  
shape, it still  
stands today . . .

As concrete  
evidence of the  
VALUE of  
SAVING!



## Pioneer Names Appeared On The First Roster Of Citizen's Stockholders

Following is a list of stockholders in the Citizen's Savings and Loan back in 1894. You'll recognize many of them as former prominent citizens.

James A. Cunningham  
W.J. Lateer A.S. Vancleave  
John L. Hamilton, Jr.  
Carrie Lahr Sadie Finley  
Nathan Bond V.C. Preston  
Charles O. Williams  
J.O. Dixon Charles W. Warner  
H.B. Harper W.C. Cook  
Geo. W. Prutsman H.T. Hobson  
George A. Collings John York  
Charles A. Allen J.W. Heaton  
George R. Deatrich W.H. Lewis  
D.D. Gilman A.B. Burtaett  
Harry Cunningham W.P. Pierce  
R.A. Bayne Simon Rohren  
W.H. Elliott J.S. Decloss  
C.T. Putnam Thomas Kight  
N.E. Beaver Lillie E. Lewis  
George M. Dunlap Georgie Finley  
A.M. Sorey Lester Kight  
C.C. Bradford Charles R. Finley  
Ray Alexander E.R. Knox

Further information on these pioneer citizens is not too readily available, but we do know a few things about some of them.

On the original board of directors was Charles A. Allen, Charles C. Williams, Nathan Bond (secretary), H.B. Harper, W.J. Lateer, Joseph W. Heaton and George Prutsman.

Charles Williams operated a shoe store. W.C. Cook a grocery. H.T. Hobson also a grocery. George W. Prutsman had a lumber yard. Nathan Bond, our first secretary was in the insurance business, just as our present secretary, Tate Duley. A.S. Van Cleave was a clerk in Heaton & Evans Dry Goods.

George Duley (Tate's dad) was a shareholder. Also Dr. L.W.

Anderson. David Bodell was a merchant and also assistant post master. W.P. Pierce, mayor of Hoopeston from 1889 to 1893 is listed. John Heaton, mayor from 1919 to 1925 was a stockholder.

M.H. Lewis, a retired farmer, built part of the original Route 9. He was an uncle of Don Petry's. James Cunningham, Irma Dyer's grandfather was represented. John Hamilton was cashier of the First National Bank and W.J. Lateer was vice-president of the bank.

Charles R. Finley, first president of the Vermilion County Farm Bureau, was included. From the same family was Addie Reece Finley, Mariona Reece Finley, Margaret Alice Finley and Watts Finley.

Dr. J.W. Heaton, father of Drs. Dick and Herb was on the roster, as was Charles Warner, father of Gladys Fiach. John York was included and his wife, Mrs. Nora York, and his son Shirley York now lives at 848 E. Honeywell Ave.

Charles T. Putnam was on the original list. The greater part of his career was spent in Hoopeston in the lumber, coal and planing mill business, which he sold in 1908.

This is only a sketchy and partial list. The other old timers have passed from our ken, but are well remembered by relatives and friends.

The current board at Citizens pays high tribute to these early pioneers. Without their far-sighted views, we would not be where we are today.

And we're looking forward to many more good years....  
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, HOOPESTON!

# Citizens

## Savings and Loan Association

Phone 283-5548

103 West Penn

Hoopeston, Illinois 60942



# St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Church

St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Church was founded in Hoopeston in the year 1877. The parish was then a mission of Gilman, with the spiritual needs of the Catholics in the community being taken care of by a visiting priest from a neighboring city. In this year, the growth of Catholics in numbers was sufficient to warrant the erection of a church.

## A MISSION OF PAPINEAU

According to the Catholic directory, in 1895, Hoopeston was a mission of Papineau. The pastor of Papineau, the Reverend M. A. Mainville, became the first resident pastor of Hoopeston in 1897. Another church and rectory were built by Father Mainville after the first church was destroyed by a storm.

Following Father Mainville, the pastors were: Reverend William Selk in the years 1898-1902; Reverend Michael A. Welter 1902-1903; Rt. Reverend Monsignor Frederich Gahlman 1903-1929.

Monsignor Gahlman was born in Clyman, Wisconsin on March 28, 1872, and was ordained a priest by the late Bishop O'Riley on June 26, 1901. His first assignment was the post of assistant pastor at Gilman, Illinois.



FATHER MAINVILLE



THE FIRST CHURCH, BUILT IN 1877.

THE NEW CHURCH, BUILT IN 1907.



He was scarcely acquainted with the members of his parish when he received the call from the Bishop again, sending him to Hoopeston. He arrived here in July 1903. When he assumed the pastorate here, there was a little wooden church at the corner of South Third and Lincoln Streets. Four years later the first of his ambitions was realized when he completed a new brick church in 1907. The next great improvement was the parsonage, a brick residence next to the church on Third Street. The rectory was completed in 1928.

THE NEW RECTORY, 1928.



Father Gahlman established the Ladies Altar and Rosary Society with its main purpose being, to look after the altars and see that they were properly decorated on church holidays, also to take care of the linens and the cleaning of the church itself. However the functions do not stop there as the ladies also organize the social functions and meetings around the diocese and in the parish.

After Monsignor Gahlman, the Reverend Dennis Walsh was pastor, followed by Reverend F. X. Janssen in 1937. Reverend E. W. Flynn came to St. Anthony's in 1938. Father Flynn had served in several churches in central Illinois prior to his appointment in Hoopeston. While rummaging through old church records, [written mostly in French], Father Flynn discovered that the first baptismal services were held at St. Anthony's on April 20, 1888, and the first confirmation was that of Matthew Jennett on September 13, 1895.

Succeeding Father Flynn was Reverend John Koziel who stayed at St. Anthony's until Reverend Raymond J. Boyle assumed the parochial work. Under the direction of Father Boyle, the interior of the church was redecorated to coincide with the modern era. The grounds of the church were redone to make St. Anthony's one of the most beautiful churches in the city of Hoopeston.



# Lutheran Church

Rev. Berthald of Danville called first meeting in summer of 1943 because of a concern for the community the size of Hoopeston being without a Lutheran church since a large number of people of Scandinavian descent and Lutheran backgrounds were migrating to the area.

The first meeting was held at the home of George Arnholdt at 840 E. Maple that summer with ten people attending. Those present were Mr. and Mrs. John Lah, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Lah, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Roberts, Mrs. Leona Murray, and Mrs. Chrisman and Mr. and Mrs. George Arnholdt.

They made plans to canvass the town to determine the probability of establishing a congregation and in the following year, 1944 the charter was issued.

The first services were held in the Lions Club meeting hall which at the time was over the Darb Cigar Store which occupied its present location.

Shortly arrangements were made to rent, by the week, the church building located at the corner of Honeywell and Market which belonged to the United Presbyterians. This building had been destroyed by fire in 1925 and by 1928 was completely rebuilt.

In 1946 arrangements were made to purchase the building from the Presbyterians, at the time of the purchasing agreement, a clause was included to allow any individuals or groups of the United Presbyterian Church to use the church facilities at no charge. This agreement was made to express appreciation to the selling church body for their fairness in the transaction and remains in effect today.

In 1950 the purchase of the parsonage directly to the east of the church was completed. This parsonage was in use until 1964, at which time it was sold.

The first services were conducted by Pastor Norman E. Klatt. Since that time the church has been served by several pastors. Following Pastor Klatt was Pastor Wheeler, then Pastor Ballash. Hoopeston then shared a pastor with the Loda congregation, Pastor Lutz. After his departure Hoopeston entered into an agreement with the Our Savior Lutheran Church of Milford for a joint parsonage, the first pastor being Rev. Knauff, then Pastor Howard Jording and presently by Pastor John Hobratchk who graduated from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo. Nov. 25, 1970 and was ordained January 10, 1971. He assumed his duties as pastor immediately following and now resides in the parsonage at Milford, Ill.

# The Christian Church

The Christian Church in Hoopeston had its beginning almost with the city itself at a time when most of its members came from other communities to attend services.

During the first year, 1873, a church house was built jointly with the New Light Brethren and the Disciples of Christ on East Honeywell, site of the present home of Donald Petry.

The building was bought a few years later from the New Light Brethren and became the sole property of the Disciples.

First members included J. M. R. Spinning, Hoopeston's first postmaster, and his wife; Dr. F. J. Roof, his wife and niece; Miss Amy Jane Given; J. W. Hawkins and his wife; Dr. S. Frankenberger; Mrs. Mark Johnson; Noah Brown and three or four others whose names were not noted in history.

Spinning was chosen elder and Hawkins, deacon. Elder Martin preached for the small congregation at intervals for a year or more and traveling ministers visited the pulpit occasionally.

In 1885, the congregation voted to move the church to a more central location and a larger building was necessary by then. A lot on the northwest corner of Main and Fourth was purchased. On August 2, 1886, the new church was dedicated.

In 1890, J. N. Lester came to Hoopeston from Milford and was engaged to preach. Under his guidance, the church began to

grow and soon numbered 475.

In May of 1899, members voted to change the name to First Church of Christ. Soon after that the congregation bought a lot across the street on the northeast corner of the intersection and J. M. Strote of Watseka was awarded the contract to build a new church for \$8,100.

The mortgage on that building was burned in 1912 during the pastorate of Andrew Scott.

In 1948 the church was extensively remodeled and the following year found the auditorium being remodeled into a more modern sanctuary and youth chapel. Also, new classrooms were built as well as a pastor's study, choir room, baptismal room and rest rooms were remodeled. Cost of the remodeling was estimated at \$53,000.

On December 17, 1953, the entire structure was destroyed by fire with estimates of damage set at \$250,000.

Cornerstone for the new building of brick was laid during ceremonies on October 31, 1954.

Ministers of the church through the years have included: R.H. Robertson, 1898-1901; G.W. Thomas, 1902-03; L.I. Mercer, 1904-06; L.R. Hoteling, 1907-08; H. F. Keltch, 1909-10; Andrew Scott, 1911-14; John P. Givens, 1915-18; Eugene Smith, 1919-23; E.F. Winkler, 1924-25; E.S. DeMiller, 1925-27; Charles Brooks, 1927-33; Harold G. Elsam 1933-39; Kent M. Dale, 1940-42; Eugene Fairman, 1942-47; C. Ernest Grace, 1948-49; H. C. Roberts, 1949-57; William Taylor, 1957; Leroy Roland, 1958-59; Joe Aspley, 1959-63; W. T. Harden, 1963-68; and Harry Elwood, 1968 to date.

Ministers who served during the early years were Elder Rolla Martin who was responsible for organizing the first congregation, Arnett Owen, William Rowe, Austin Stipp, Wesley Miller, J.W. Lester, Simon Rohrer, J.S. Clements and Arthur Cheesman.

# Universalist Church

The Hoopeston Universalist Church was organized August 18, 1882. A constitution was first formed in September 1882. The meetings that led up to the organization of the church were held in the Presbyterian Church. The Rev. T. S. Guthrie of Springfield, Ohio delivered the first sermon and received the first members. A Sunday School was soon organized and met in the room over Sniely's Market and the church meetings were held in the McFerren Opera House.

In March 1884 it was decided to purchase lots on the southwest corner of Penn and Market and a church was to be built at a cost of less than \$3,500. This was the first church or wooden church built in 1885, the year that Rev. L. W. Brigham assumed half time work as pastor. Rev. Jacob Strub of Marselles, Illinois was the first full time pastor. This building was dedicated October 2, 1887. The Rev. Cantwell and the Rev. Conklin preached the sermons.

In 1892 they started to acquire a parsonage but no action was taken until 1895 when a frame house was built on East Washington Street. On January 23, 1918 this parsonage burned, destroying most of the personal property of Rev. Harvey H. Hoyt and in February 1918 it was voted to build a new parsonage as the old one was beyond repair and a \$6,000.00 parsonage was built.

1904 was the year the plans were made for a new church at the site of the wooden church which was to be torn down and a new stone church built. On June 18, 1905 this church was finished and dedicated. For this service the Methodist, Christian and Baptist churches closed their services and their ministers took part in the dedication of the new church. At this service eighty two hundred dollars was raised in less than one hour and the building was dedicated free of all indebtedness.

The church was built of Indiana Limestone, of English Gothic design, with two porch entrance. The tower on the north east corner was sixteen feet square by seventy two feet high with a minaret twenty feet higher. The carved heads on the tower are symbolic of the four gospels. The building was built at a total cost of \$26,760.



# Methodist Episcopal

The first service was held by President Elder Wood of the Danville District in a blacksmith's shop, using the anvil for a pulpit, in 1871. Reverend Hyde, of the Rossville Circuit, then formed the Methodists into a class, and attached it to the Rossville Circuit. Next Presiding Elder Wood asked the Illinois Conference for a missionary for the area north of Rossville to the Iroquois County line, east to the Indiana line and west to the Blue Grass appointment. The request was granted and Reverend D. D. Alkire was secured. He gave his first sermon on October 29, 1871. The first regular pastor of the church and area to be assigned was Reverend A. H. Alkire, in 1872, who succeeded his missionary brother, D. D. Alkire. These two men held services in McCracken's Store. In 1873, Reverend Walter Lange organized the Hoopeston Methodists into a separate class of their own, composed of eleven charter members. Services were now held in Taylor's Hall, located on the southeast corner of West Penn and South Second Avenue. It was not until 1875, under the ministry of Reverend James Muirhead, that an actual church building was erected in Hoopeston, at a cost of \$3,000.00.

The church nearly was closed twice in those early years. One businessman, who had a bill of \$30.00 against the church, got out an injunction to close the church on a Sunday. The church was kept open by Mrs. W. R. Wilson, Reverend Muirhead's adopted daughter, who provided the \$30.00 from money she had saved by giving music lessons. At another time, the church was to be sold for a mechanic's lien. The church was saved this time by Cyrus Hartwell and W. R. Clark signing a note; though neither of these men were Methodists. The lot on which the original and present church building stands was acquired for the sum of \$450.00 from Robert McCracken of Paxton.

The Hoopeston Methodists were on a circuit of churches until 1885, when they became a station charge under Reverend J. P. McIntyre. Under Reverend McIntyre's leadership, the first parsonage was built at a cost of \$1,500.00, located in the 300 block on the north side of East Main Street.

The first Young People's Society was organized under Reverend C. R. Morrison, who came in 1887. In 1888, Reverend Walmsley came and under his leadership the first Woman's Foreign Missionary Society was organized, Mrs. Walmsley being the first president.

Another important era was begun in September 1895, when Reverend Parker Shields came as pastor. His pastorate was so successful that there were 240 additions to the church, raising its membership to 745. Also, the present sanctuary was built and then dedicated in 1896.

Another item of importance was that the 77th session of the Illinois Annual Conference was held in the Hoopeston Methodist Episcopal Church, September 18-24, 1900.

A list of ministers from beginning to present follows:

## Antioch Church

The Antioch church, which was built on section 34, about two miles from the southern and two from the eastern line of the township, was the outgrowth of a union effort for securing the necessary house of worship for that part of the township. Elder Sites at an early day had preached there at the house of James Holmes, who was a member of that — the Christian-denomination, and others of that connection followed. Father Connor preached there in 1870, and Elders Hubbard and Stipp, later.

The Methodist class, that worships in the same place, belonged to the Rossville circuit, and was served by the same pastors who had labored at Hoopeston. The church was a neat and commodious building, and by the terms of its building is to be free to be occupied by all Christian denominations. Noah Brown and Mr. Brillhart were trustees, and were largely instrumental in collecting the means to build, which was subscribed liberally by all the neighborhood.

D. D. Alkire, 1871; A. H. Alkire, 1872; Walter Lange, 1873; James Muirhead, 1874-76; H. M. Hoff, 1877-78; S. Goldsmith, 1879-81; A. Clarke, 1882-83; J. P. McIntyre, 1884-85; J. Long, 1886; C. R. Morrison, 1887; E. S. Walmsley, 1888-92; J. G. Orr, 1892-94; Parker Shields, 1895-99; S. N. Thornton, 1900; T. N. Ewing, 1901-03; A. L. T. Ewert, 1904-05; W. A. Smith, 1906-07; S. L. Boyer, 1908; M. G. Coleman, 1909-11; W. L. Ewing, 1912-14; J. M. Miller, 1915-16; A. S. Chapman, 1917-18; A. S. Flannagan, 1919-20; H. G. Beck, 1921-23; E. F. Young, 1924-28.

The name of the pastor in 1929 is unknown; H. F. Powell, 1930-34; H. Leach, 1935-37; J. E. Evans, 1938-43; B. L. Rudd, 1944-45; Ralph C. Glose, 1955; Clyde B. Friend, 1955-58; N. Felton Whittle, 1959-61; Ernest H. Duling, 1962-64; H. Leland Walls, 1965-69; Benjamin F. Anderson, 1970 to the present.

## United Presbyterian

The United Presbyterian Church was organized in May 1872 by Rev. J. D. Whitham. Services were first held in McCracken's Store.

Honeywell Avenue was named Davis Street in 1873 when the First United Presbyterian Church was erected on Third and Davis Street, just north of the present Baptist Church.

The Rev. John T. Meloy served in the United Presbyterian Church from 1904 to 1922. Three of his children became well known missionaries overseas. Sarah Meloy was president of an active well known Girl's College in Cairo, Egypt for many years. She is now living in Muncie, Indiana with two of her sisters. Lucille Meloy Addy and John Meloy also served the church overseas.

The Rev. E. E. Grice served in this church one year, 1922-23. He has held high positions in the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church and also served overseas in Egypt.

A frame building was erected, then a brick church on the corner of Market and Honeywell. This later was burned to the ground one very cold day in 1928. The fire hydrants were frozen so help could not be obtained. The present church was erected shortly after that with a small congregation. The United Presbyterian Church was dissolved in 1940 because of the very small congregation and that there were very few ministers available because of the war. The present building was rented for one year, then sold to the Lutheran Church in 1942 where services are still held.

## The First Presbyterian

The First Presbyterian Church was organized May 3, 1872 by Rev. A. L. Brooks and Rev. W. A. Steele. A union Sunday School was held in 1872 with Dr. T. S. McCaughey as teacher for these first religious services.

The first eight years services were held in various halls:

1. Hibbard House-tavern and hotel on Second Avenue and Penn Street

2. Snell and Taylor's Hall

3. Givens and Knox Hall on Market and Honeywell

Seventeen charter members were in the first congregation.

In 1880 a wood-frame church with a bell tower was erected under the pastorate of Rev. A. L. Knox. The son of Rev. Knox was a prominent printer here, as was the grandson, also A. L. Knox. After twenty years service this building proved to be too small with the increasing congregation. It was sold to John Mann Sr. who tore it down immediately, but saved the stained glass windows which were stored carefully, then destroyed in a fire.

Union services were held in summer evenings in the North Side Park during the 1920's with several denominations.

The present brick church still in use, was erected in 1900 at the cost of \$15,000.00 under the pastorate of Rev. E. J. Regennes.

There have been sixteen ministers serving in The First Presbyterian Church from 1872 to 1971.



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## **Apostolic Christian Church**



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A few members of the Apostolic Christian faith immigrated to the East Lynn community from Europe prior to 1880. Services were held in homes until 1881 when a church building was purchased near Fountain Creek. As the membership increased the people gradually located nearer to Cissna Park. In the year 1890 the old building was moved to the present area, it was enlarged and remodeled as needed until this new building was dedicated October 23, 1949.

**SERVICES: Sunday - 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Thursday, 7:30 p.m.**

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All are welcome to attend our services. We endeavor to follow the teachings and words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the doctrine which is according to Godliness. Repentance, Conversion, Confession, Rebirth through baptism, walking in newness of life—embracing a hope of eternal life through the shed blood of Christ the son of God.

(All honor and glory to God in the highest.)

The present ministers are Ezra J. Feller serving as Elder. Also Phil Sauder and Ed Alt.

(More complete history of doctrine and nature available upon request.)





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But a new century is dawning for Hoopeston. The second hundred years will bring new challenges, new promises. This milestone presents the oppor-

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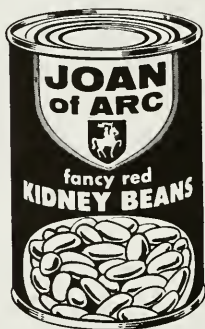
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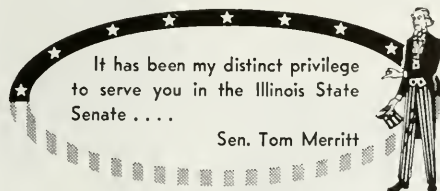
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The Rev. Ben Anderson, minister



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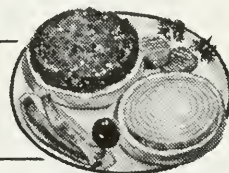
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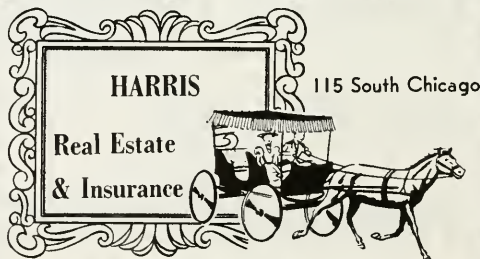


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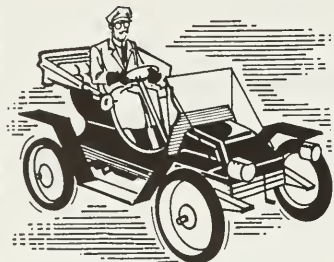
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Byron Yanders

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Jason Wade Martin  
Jeffrey Lee Martin  
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Hoopston Lions Club  
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Charlene's Corner Salon  
Tom Layden  
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Belly's Beauty Shoppe  
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George Raymond Gatrell  
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Beta Beta 947 ESA Sorority  
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Margaret Cox  
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Douglas Earl Smock  
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Jerry and Pat Scott  
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Dalph Slipp  
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Gregory Paul Vandenberg  
Edwin Robert Vandenberg  
Sara Pauline Vandenberg  
Robert Eugene Vandenberg  
Kim Lockwood Nelson  
Beta Sigma Phi  
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Randall Petersen  
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Griffon's Marathon  
Herman's Standard  
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Galloway Machine Company  
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Missionary Fellowship  
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Hoopston Junior Woman's Club  
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Hoopston Woodworks  
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Woods Funeral Home  
Larson's Clothes Shop, Inc.  
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Caroline Baxter  
Ferne Starr  
Everett Laury, States Attorney  
Diane Lynn Byers



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Margo Clouse  
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Mrs. Mary F. Merckle  
Mrs. May Brooks  
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Diane Peiry  
Ruth Ann Peiry  
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Lillian Stokes  
Bertha Smally  
D. A. Smally  
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Kathryn Johnson  
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Jim Nichols  
Rick Hoke  
Joyce Hoke  
Little League Moms  
Janna S. Griffin  
Bruce Hedgecock  
Ray Cox - Owens Service  
Mr. Jack Clark - Sheriff  
North Fork Conservation Club  
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Helen C. Marshall  
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Prairie Rebekah Lodge No. 622  
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Mrs. Frank Graham  
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Larry & Tina Dellarocco  
Joe & Ines Odrobinal  
Marg Shoultter  
Marsha Shoultter  
Herbie Shoultter  
Herb Shoultter  
Robert & Charlotte Marko  
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Sandra Kay Garner  
Randall Kent Garner  
Stokely Van Camp Inc.  
American Can Co.  
FMC Corporation  
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Belinda Sue Lane  
Timothy James Lane  
James & Louise Lane  
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Debbie Garrison  
Lisa Garrison  
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Dale Singleton  
Mark Singleton  
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Nora Joan Sheffield  
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Lucy Williams McLaughlin  
Lenora V. Sheffield  
Floyd Sheffield  
Richard Eugene McCullough  
Mr. & Mrs. Leon Gossett  
Harold Morrison  
Dora Fair  
Women of the Moose  
J. Harold & Mary F. Dalton  
Paige Glenn  
Sandra Woodrum



# *Official Centennial Seal*



Harold L. Morrison, Hoopeston postmaster since 1965, a 33-year veteran employe of postal service in Hoopeston, was designer of the seal. His entry was selected from several submitted by residents and is displayed on all official celebration material. It symbolizes Hoopeston's overnight growth from a raw prairie in what was once a remote area in extreme northern Vermilion County.

Morrison is a life-resident of Hoopeston, born 1917, and he and his wife (Nella Seals) have three married children — Sharol Gossett of Hoopeston; Joe of Alvin; and Jay of Hoopeston.



# LET'S ROLL UP OUR SLEEVES AND GET TO WORK!

*The Comprehensive Plan for Hoopeston lists many changes and improvements in store in the years to come. Some of them are:*

*To provide and encourage new industrial site development.*

*To provide year-round public recreational facilities.*

*To create a park district with full time personnel and to provide for the acquisition of open land for future parks.*

*To study the feasibility of constructing a YMCA or similar recreational facility.*

*To develop a Junior College program and a vocational school program.*

*To conduct a study for the installation of a local airport facility.*

*To re-establish public bus service throughout the community.*

*To provide new and improved lighting on all city streets and alleys.*

*In 1872 the population of Hoopeston was 245. In 1873 it was 800, in 1874 it was 1,000 and in 1878 it was 2,000. In 1966 it was 7,229. In 1980 it is projected to be 9,100, in the year 2000 it will be 12,000 and in the year 2020 it is projected as 15,500.*

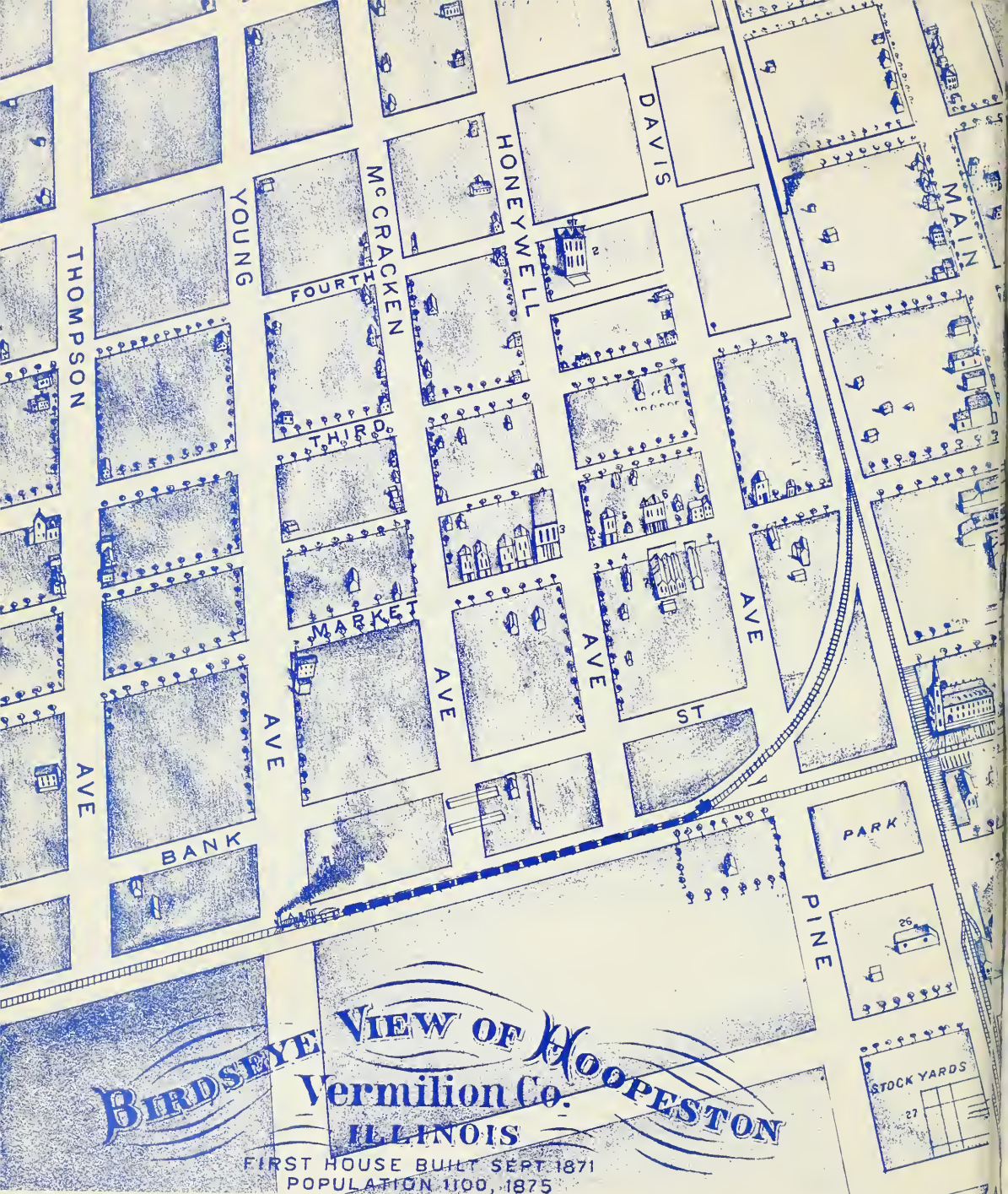
*The next 100 years will no doubt see as many changes, if not more, in our home town as it has witnessed in its first 100 years.*

*As we mark this anniversary, may we endeavor to achieve our goals and continue serving the community in its growth.*

**There's a big job ahead of us  
in the coming years . . . keep-  
ing this town great! The  
only way to get the job  
done is to have every-  
one pitch in with  
energy and determ-  
ination in the home,  
in the factory, in  
the office and in  
the classroom.  
Let's all work  
together!**







1. Christian Church.
2. Public School.
3. Girven & Knox, Brick Store.
4. A. Randolph, Lumber Merchant.
5. Dr. Anderson.
6. Miller Bros., Grocers.
7. Holsizer & Taylor.
8. W. R. Clark, Hardware Store.

9. P. F. Levan, Bakery, Confectionery & Restaurant.
10. Dove, Groceries, Bank.
11. Lukens & Mullins.
12. { T. F. Swinford, Bookstore.
- { I. M. R. Spinney, Notary Public.
- { G. H. King, Jeweller.

KEY TO THE PICT















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